



BUILD A BUG HOTEL WITH RECYCLED MATERIAL

Try making your own insect hotel out of recyclables and natural materials from outside! This will give bugs somewhere safe to live, and somewhere neat to observe insect behavior up close! Insects are an important part of our ecosystem - many of them are decomposers who create soil and recycle dead organic material, most are food for larger animals like birds, frogs, fish, and bats, and they also help control pests and even pollinate your plants! Insects use the materials in the bug hotel to crawl over, hide in, and build their own nests.

What You Need



- Shoeboxes, or medium sized shipping boxes with the folding tabs removed
- Extra flat pieces of cardboard and construction paper
- Smaller cardboard boxes and tubes, like toothpaste boxes & toilet paper rolls
- scissors
- hot glue
- items to fill the hotel, such as twigs, leaves, bark, rocks, pine cones, broken clay pot pieces
- mesh produce bag (optional)



What You Do

Create the compartments. To create the hotel's compartments, hot glue flat pieces of cardboard or construction paper into the medium sized box to create "stories" in the hotel. Create "rooms" in the medium sized box by stuffing in smaller cardboard boxes and tubes, and hot gluing them into place.

Fill the hotel. Tightly fill each compartment with the natural items you have collected. To prevent some of the objects from falling out, you can cover one or more of the "rooms" with a piece of the mesh bag. TIP: Non-stinging bees love neat, round holes. To attract more bees, you can drill holes into a block of wood and add it to your hotel. Just make sure the wood isn't "pressure-treated" with chemicals.



Place in a location outside where you can observe it, but where it won't receive full sunlight or full rain! Record bug observations in your nature journal!