



How to make a bug hotel

Okay guys, this one ticks a lot of boxes – so to speak!

- Recycling ✓
- Getting fresh air in the garden ✓
- Learning about Natural History ✓
- Nature and climate ✓



Preparation

Think about which insect you are looking to attract with your bug home. Try to find out more about them and where they usually hibernate. Instead of plastic plant pots, we suggest you root through your recycling and pull out some milk cartons, plastic bottles or old cardboard coffee cups to make these bug homes.

Equipment needed

- 2 litre plastic drinks bottles, milk cartons, old cardboard coffee cups – anything tubular
- An old piece of plastic pipe is also good if you have such a thing in your shed (ask a grown up)
- Rolled newspaper straws or corrugated cardboard (this is what most delivery boxes are made of)
- Scissors (be careful!)
- Waterproof tape

Step by step

- Cut the end off the recycled item of your choice or cut a plastic pipe to 20cm in length.
- Make newspaper tubes by cutting newspaper lengthways and rolling up. Ensure there is a hole in the centre of around 4mm. Rolled corrugated cardboard can also be used.
- Cut the material to the length of the pot or bottle.
- Fit the materials tightly into the bottle or pot, so they won't fall out. Ensure the hollow ends are facing outwards and will be protected from rain.
- Place your bug home almost horizontally in a warm spot with the open end slightly lower to prevent water logging. Bug homes are best placed no higher than 1m above the ground. The best places to put them are in a tree, bush, at the base of a tree and most importantly in a quiet place.
- Ladybirds will be attracted to this sort of bug hotel, and they are useful in your garden as they eat aphids that damage plants but make sure you keep it out of reach of any pets.
- If you have a go, let us know by posting your creation online using #VGMatHome



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