



Make a bee hotel

Time:

1 ½ hours

Who it's for:

All ages

You'll need:

- Clean tin cans
- Bamboo canes
- Plant pot
- Soil
- Paints
- 'Make a bee hotel' instruction sheet

What to do:

1. Britain has around 200 species of solitary bees; these differ from bumblebees in that they build single nest cells for their larvae. Some species nest in tunnels in sandy banks or old bricks; others use hollow stems of dead plants or old wood to create their nests.
2. Your group can make use of recycled materials to create their own bee hotels, providing spaces for solitary bees to nest. These bee hotels could be positioned in members' gardens or around your meeting space throughout the summer. Just make sure they are placed in a south facing position as bees love the sun.
3. Download the bee hotel instruction sheet to run this activity with your group.

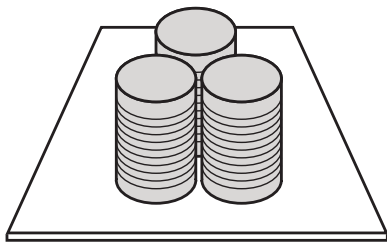


Make a bee hotel

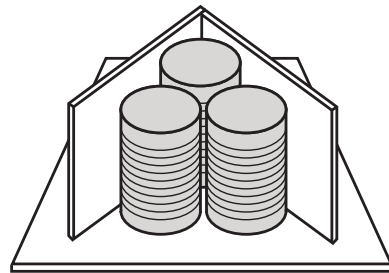
What you need

- Three clean tin cans
- Bamboo canes
- Non-toxic PVA glue
- Wood glue
- Paint
- Two thin pieces of wood for the roof
- A thin square piece of wood for the back of the hotel

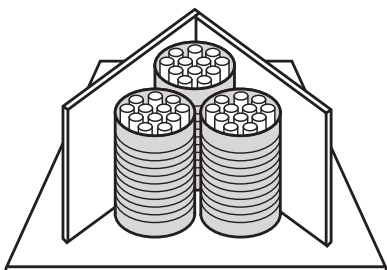
Instructions



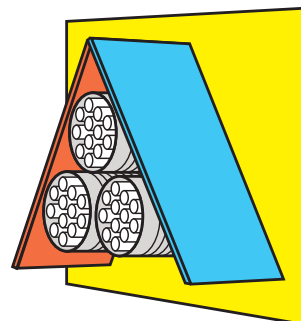
1. Place the piece of wood you have chosen for the back of your bee hotel on the floor. Put wood glue on the bottom of the cans and stick them to the wood in a pyramid shape (two below one on top). Leave them to dry for an hour.



2. Take the pieces of wood for your roof and place them in a triangle shape covering the cans and glue them into place. Leave them to dry for an hour.



3. Ask an adult to help you cut the bamboo canes into short sections the depth of the tin cans. Place a little PVC glue on the end of each cane and push it into the can. Fill up the can with the canes.



4. Now your bee hotel is nearly ready. Paint it in bright colours (with non-toxic paint) and leave it in a quiet place outside for the bees to start using.