

How to build an insect hotel

Providing shelter for nature's little beasts

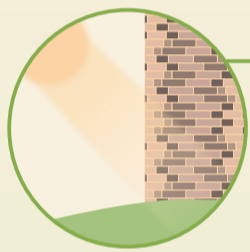
Insects are essential to sustain **ecosystems, agriculture** and future **food security**. However, due to climate change, intensive agriculture, pollution, urban expansion, and pesticide misuse, **insect populations have declined by nearly 50%**.

A buzzing house in 5 simple steps



1. Gather materials

Better to use **recycled and natural materials** available on a garden or farm (preferably with holes through them). **Do not treat the wood, keep it natural.** The use of chemicals will repel insects.



2. Choose a spot

Find a **sheltered spot**, and install the walls facing south in cooler climates and north in warmer ones. Elevate it at least **1 meter off the ground** to keep ants away.



3. Build the structure

Ensure the **depth** ranges between **30-40 cm**. Fill it with collected materials and drill **varied-sized holes** at slight angles to prevent water retention. Never **drill all the way**.



4. Sit and wait, monitor

Check for **signs of occupancy** like fresh leaves or materials brought by insects. Some might even personalise their spaces with clay, stone, or sand.



5. Maintain the hotel

Monitor for **excessive moisture** to prevent fungal growth, and be attentive to potential **wood pests**. Replace any compromised sections promptly.

