

Science for Kids

Building an insect hotel with your kids is a fun and informative project.

Instead of building a box, you can go buy a shadow box.

Get your kids to go out and investigate! Make it a scavenger hunt. Go find things to put in the insect hotel.

It is an awesome way to teach your children about insects, and how they are beneficial to us. Bugs are not scary, they are useful and interesting!

More information can be found on:

<http://babbledabledo.com/science-for-kids-insect-hotel/>



Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve

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The Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve Research & Education Centre and Office is located in the Redberry Lake Regional Park: GPS Coordinates 52.717163, -107.215233

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**How to Build:
Your Own
Insect Hotel**

You will need:

- 3/4" cedar boards
- Weather resistant screws between 1 ¼" and 1 ½" long
- Drill and table saw
- Hanging hardware
- Material: Twigs, dead wood, straw, rocks, pinecones, wheat, dry leaves, block of wood with drilled holes, bamboo pieces, plants. Be creative!

Using a table saw, cut the board to the following dimensions:

Top: 5 ½" (h) x 5 ½" (w)

Bottom: 5 ½" (h) x 5 ½" (w)

Back panel: 12" (h) x 5 ½" (w)

Left panel: 12" (h) x 4 ¾" (w)

Right panel: 12" (h) x 4 ¾" (w)

Drill pilot holes.

Screw the box together and make sure it is solid.

Arrange the material within the box. Pack it tightly so it will stay put, but with lots of crevices for the bugs.

Affix hanging hardware and hang your insect hotel around your garden.

Helpful Tips

Place your insect hotel in both the shade and in sunlight. If you wish to attract bees, place pipe, old bamboo canes, holes in wood, and upturned flower pots in a sunny spot.

Place the whole insect hotel close to other wildlife areas such as an overgrown hedge, trees, or a pond. And of course place the insect hotel close to your garden, to benefit from the pollinators, and aphid eaters!

Who Lives Here?

As the parks, gardens, and natural areas around us are being tidied up, dead wood is becoming a rare habitat.

But **dead wood** provides homes for the larvae of wood boring beetle. Woodlice, and centipedes also call crevices underneath the dead wood home.

Straw provides good hibernation sites for insects to burrow in.

Dry leaves and pinecones mimic the litter on the forest floor and provide habitat for a variety of insects.

Holes in wood, plastic drain pipe, and/or old bamboo canes provide excellent nesting sites for solitary bees. Female bees lay their eggs at the end of a tube, on a mass of pollen, and seal it with bits of mud or leaves. Bees enjoy warmth, so pick a sunny spot to put the drilled wood or tubes.

Corrugated cardboard put into a waterproof cylinder provides home for lacewings and their larvae. Lacewings eat lots of aphids, and other garden pests.

Dry sticks and leaves together



make a home for ladybugs. Ladybugs also eat aphids and other garden pests.

An upturned flowerpot in a warm,

Photo: www.wikipedia.org

sheltered spot is an ideal place for a queen bumble bee to build her nest and found a new colony. They are good pollinators and they make honey!

Find more ideas for nest boxes here:

<http://www.redberrylake.ca/exploreus/hikingtrailstips.php>

