



Bug Hotel installation instructions

NOTES: Please check for any damage caused by the shipping company and take appropriate steps to file a claim, if needed.

Materials needed

Cordless driver, with star drive or Phillips head bit. If hanging is desired, parachute cord is included in the package.

NOTES

Insect hotels are a good idea for your backyard

Adding an insect house to your backyard is a good idea if you want to increase the population of insects including bees. Insects are vital to the health of our backyards and local ecosystems, plus they provide food for other animals, pollinate our fruit, and help to break down organic matter in our gardens.

Adding an insect hotel to your garden is a great way to support our insect population by providing them with shelter and structure to build their homes. Some gardens can have limited places for bugs to set up their home, so providing a bug hotel gives them extra real estate to live in. These are perfect for tiny urban gardens, as they can fill a vertical space on a wall that you aren't using for anything else.

Benefits of an insect hotel

Insect hotels benefit the local insect population, the local ecosystem and your backyard. They will provide a home for visiting insects including pollinating insects like bees. These will help to pollinate [fruit and flowers in our garden](#) helping tomatoes, strawberries, lemons and apples to set fruit.

The insects will also be an important food source for birds and lizards in your garden. Adding an insect hotel will benefit the natural ecology of your garden to grow and diversify.

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Insects that live in an insect hotel

An insect hotel can become a home for solitary bees, ladybirds, spiders, flies or even wasps. You should check your insect hotel often to see what insects are living there. Insect hotels can be used as temporary shelter for visiting insects to escape rain and wind.

Even if they don't set up a permanent home, it can be a good refuge for a short time.

Best place to put an insect hotel

The best place to put an insect hotel is a sheltered area out of the wind around 5-8 feet off of the ground. Keep bug houses in a place out of reach of dogs and cats and in an area that gets morning sun to prevent mold. Protect your bug hotel from rain by making it with a waterproof roof or place it under a garden shed verandah to attract beneficial insects.

1. Find a spot with shelter

Place your insect hotel in a position that is sheltered from rain and wind. Keeping water off of the hotel will help to keep the insects home dry and will prevent mold forming over the winter months.

Insects will find a home in your hotel if it is well protected from the weather. They seek out dry and protected positions to make their nests. If you have lemon or lime trees, you can even hang your bug hotel under the protection of the canopy. Insects will be nearby to pollinate your lemon or lime tree in spring.

2. Best to place it near an existing tree

Placing your insect hotel near an existing tree or bush will make it easy for insects to transfer safely over to your insect house. Insects will find it easy to move and nest in your hotel.

You can attract native flies, wasps, moths and even bees if you place your hotel near a tree.

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3. Raise it up

Put your insect hotel in a safe place at least 5-8 feet off of the ground. This will keep it out of reach of cats, dogs, rats and mice, and will make it easy for flying insects to make their way in. It will also keep natural predators like skinks and lizards out.

There are a number of ways to hang your hotel. On the back, you'll notice 2 hangers, one at the top, and at the bottom. Twist these out so the holes are exposed, and use the enclosed hardware to hang the hotel on a tree, a garden fence, a building or shed wall, under a verandah, or etc. As we said above, the place you hang it should offer shelter from the elements!!

If you don't have a surface to hang the hotel, you can use heavy wire or fishline attached to the top hanger. It might twist in the wind, so find a way to prevent it from doing this by using string or wire or... to stabilize it. If it moves in the wind, insects will be less likely to land and build their nests.

4. Place it in a position that gets morning sun

Place insect hotel in a position that gets morning sun, as this will help to prevent mold growth. Insects like to find a warm and protected position. Face the hotel east to north-east for a few hours of direct sunlight.

This will also keep it in good condition for new insects to move into the next season. You can even clean out your bug hotel year to year and remove old clay nesting material ready for new bugs to arrive. Just make sure the bugs have already left before you do this.

5. Keep it protected from cats and dogs

Finding the perfect position that keeps the bug hotel out of reach of cats (remember, cats will climb!) and dogs is essential. They can easily knock the insect house off and disturb your insects if they can reach it.

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Check out these easy tips to attract more bugs to your insect hotel.

Plant a range of flowers, herbs and vegetables in your garden with a diversity in foliage to encourage a range of insects to set up home in your backyard.

If you are keen on attracting pollinating insects like bees to your hotel, then plant a variety of flowers for them to feed on. Make sure you have lots of flowers with plenty of pollen available for the pollinators.

Here's the list of flowers providing lots of pollen for local bees.

- Calendula
- Cornflower
- Californian Poppy
- Fineflower
- Toadflax
- Alyssum
- Wallflower
- Nemophila
- Poppy
- Marigold
- Chinese Forget-Me-Not
- Borage
- Evening Primrose
- Lavender
- Native Violet
- Swan River Daisy
- Sage

Provide a water source nearby

Insects will be attracted to bug insect hotel they have a safe water source nearby. Wild bees will feel safer making a home in your bug hotel if they have access to fresh water. Place a shallow saucer filled with water and a stone for the insects to land on. This will allow them to access the water without falling in.

Avoid Using Pesticides

To attract beneficial insects to your insect hotel, avoid using pesticides in your garden. Use organic fertilizers to encourage a natural balance in bacteria and insects.

As the insects in your garden find balance, predatory insects like ladybugs and dragonflies will balance out any species trying to eat your plants, such as aphids.

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How to clean an insect hotel

If your insect hotel has become home to spiders or wasps over time you may need to clean the hotel out to make room for other visitors.

Clean your insect hotel simply using an old dustpan broom to remove old webs and dirt. Use gloves and take care that there isn't anything still living in your insect hotel when you clean it.

If you find that wasps or bees have brought in mud or clay to close up the end of the holes, use a stick to clean them out. Make sure the bugs have left your hotel first before you do this and take care.

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