

Building a bee hotel!

When bees live in cities, they sometimes need help finding a nice place to live. You can help by building a bee hotel to put on your balcony, or in your window-box or your garden. You will need **adult help!**

Share your bee hotel photos with us!!
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You will need...

- **Adult help!**
- A 2-litre plastic bottle
- String or wool
- Scissors (**adult step**)
- A small amount of air-dry clay
- 15 cm tubes, 7-10 mm across (cut bamboo cane, paper straws or wooden/paper bee tubes)

What to do...



1. **Ask an adult** to cut the 2 litre plastic bottle to around 20 cm long, from the bottom end. **Be careful of sharp edges!**

2. Gather your 15 cm tubes in the plastic bottle - there should be enough to fill all the space. Then take the tubes out, and tie your string/wool around the tubes to hold them together.



3. Place your air-dry clay on one end of the tubes, and spread it over all the tubes.

4. Put the clay-end of the tubes into your plastic bottle, and press firmly so the tubes are fixed into place.

5. Wrap some more string/wool around the tubes to stop them moving in the plastic bottle. They should be held firmly in place, and be fully inside the bottle.

6. Wrap some string/wool around the edge of your plastic bottle and tie a knot to make a loop. The loop is so you can hang your bee hotel.



7. Leave your clay to dry, then you can hang your bee hotel in the garden, facing **South**. Hang your hotel between **March** and **August**, when bees come to make their nests. Try to hang your hotel securely, at least **1 metre** off the ground, and near bee-friendly plants if you can!



Look out for 'plugs' appearing in the tubes - this means a bee has moved in!



Instead of a 2-litre bottle, you can use any waterproof container more than 18 cm long!
We made these bee hotels from a coffee pot and a drain pipe piece!

Make sure you **ask an adult** before using something to make a bee hotel in!



Museum of
Natural
History

Remember - you need to look after your bees once they move in!
With an adult's help, move your hotel inside for Winter, and place it outside again in early spring. Watch as your bees emerge, then clean out all the plugs to make your hotel clean again before next year! This is very important to stop nasty bugs and parasites moving into your hotel!