

# How To - Make a Bug Hotel



## Better Habitats

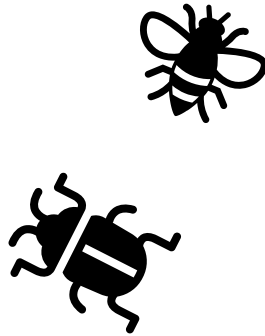
Did you know that insects are very important in both gardens and wild spaces?

They help in lots of ways such as carrying pollen between plants and trees, controlling plant pests, breaking down the soil so air and water can get in, and they create top-soil which is full of nutrients.

You can encourage insects to live in your garden by creating a bug hotel made from recycled materials!

### You will need:

- Twigs
- Hollow plant stems
- Straw
- Dry leaves and grasses
- Seed heads
- Pinecones
- Hedge trimmings



**Step 1:** Look in your garden or ask family and friends to save you things from their garden or compost heap. Be careful of thorns!

**Step 2:** Find a suitable container, such as an old plant pot, air brick, empty plastic drinks bottle (with the top and bottom cut off - ask if you need help with this), a strong box, kitchen roll tubes, or cardboard drinks cups from the recycling pile.

**Step 3:** Pack your container with the different plant matter. Push in as much as you can until it is so full, nothing will fall out.

**Step 4:** Find a quiet space in your garden to place your bug hotel. The base of a tree or bush is good, or you could tie string around smaller containers and hang them from low tree branches. You're now ready for the residents to check in!



## Better Habitats

Sherwood Forest is a mosaic of habitats with heathland, oak-birch woodland and wood pasture, alongside extensive areas of arable farmland and commercial conifer plantations. However, there has been significant loss of heathland since the 1920s.

This project will work on two main sites: Budby South Forest in the north of the Miner2Major area, and sites surrounding the former Rufford Colliery in the centre of the scheme area.

We aim to improve the condition of, and link together, existing habitats for the benefit of Sherwood's wildlife.

To find out more about the Miner2Major work with Better Habitats visit:

<https://miner2major.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/>