

BUILD YOUR OWN BEE HOTEL



Do you love food? Well you must love bees!

Did you know that bees are responsible for pollinating a third of everything we eat! They also play an important role in our natural environment.

There are almost 2,000 species of Australian native bees which can be black, yellow, red, metallic green or even black with blue polka dots! They can be big and furry, or sleek and shiny.

Most Australian bees are stingless, live by themselves and don't build large wax hives like the common European Honeybee. Instead, they burrow into hollowed out wood or tunnel into small chambers to raise their young.

Sadly, many bee populations are under threat due to habitat loss and overuse of insecticides in agriculture and gardens.

You can help our native bee population by building a bee hotel!



HOW TO BUILD A BEE HOTEL

Step 1

Collect all the required materials:

- plastic pot plant or rinsed 1L or 2L juice or milk container;
- sticks/twigs;
- leaves;
- bamboo;
- cardboard;
- sticky tape;
- straw;
- newspaper;
- string;
- scissors;
- label; and
- pen.



Step 2

Roll a piece of cardboard to create a cylinder and secure it in place with sticky tape (this cylinder will act as a tunnel for the insects).



Step 3

Fill the pot plant with twigs, leaves, rolled cardboard, bamboo, straw or newspaper. Get creative and use any combination of materials – think about if you were a bee, what sort of home would you like? Would you like lots of little hidey holes?

Make sure all the material is tightly packed so that it doesn't fall out when you hang the hotel in a tree. Straw or newspaper are useful materials to tightly pack the twigs and sticks.



Step 4

Name your bee hotel by writing the name on a label and sticking this to the hotel i.e. 'Air Bee'n'Bee'.

You could also decorate your hotel with paint or sticks to really make it special.



Step 5

Securely tie string around your bee hotel. Make sure the string is long enough to allow you to tie the hotel around a tree branch.



5

Step 6

Head out in your garden and find a suitable location for the bee hotel. Choose somewhere that is protected from wind and rain (as bees don't like a soggy home) and at least one metre off the ground. Try to choose somewhere near flowering plants which are a food source for many insects.



6

What next?

Now that you have created a lovely home for native bees, you could also add some tasty food sources to your garden by planting clumps of native flowering plants such as bottlebrush, banksia, grevillea and melaleuca.

For more information on how to create a bee-friendly garden, download a copy of Council's Native Garden Guide: www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/Uploads/Camden-Native-Garden-Guide.pdf



Bee hotel inspiration

