



How to Build a Bee House

Materials:

- Wood, logs, stumps, dried reeds or bamboo
- Water resilient natural material such as reeds or stems

Steps:



It's best to put a bee house up in spring. Start by finding a piece of wood, log or even an old stump. Some bees prefer dry wood.



Drill 5-20 nesting holes/tubes about 3-5mm in diameter into the wood. Most bees that use them are solitary.



Alternatively, create or find a frame to house a bundle of hollow sticks, plant stems, dried reeds or bamboo. The frame can be made from materials such as wood, clay pots, and other buckets or containers you may have around.



Keep the size of the holes relatively similar when possible.
When building multiple houses, the size can vary from house to house.



In order to protect the house from the rain, use a roof made from natural materials that will not retain moisture. Reeds and stems appear to be most successful.
Bamboo also retracts moisture (Sourced locally if you can)

Note: Houses attract more than just bees!

Ideal Location:

Facing south and raised off the ground, mounted solidly and protected from wind

Close to a natural or man-made water source.

This helps bees to make the mud to close up the tubes & lay their eggs

Tipped slightly downwards at the front for rain

Care:

The tube/nesting materials need to be replaced regularly to prevent disease and mite infestation. That is the most common misunderstanding/mistake gardeners make and the main reason bee hotels fail.

Beware of threats such as birds, chipmunks, squirrels, skunks, etc.