

# Cosy shelter for bugs



Why not make your own insect home so you can give bugs somewhere to live? They will repay you as they help control pests and even pollinate the plants. Minibeasts need a safe spaces to shelter and somewhere to raise their young and hide from the predators. Here is how you can help them...

For the small cosy shelter you will need:



1. Kitchen roll inner cardboard cut in half or toilet paper cardboard.
2. String to tie them together.
3. Some dead leaves, twigs, dead grass, sticks and if you can find any hollow sticks or bamboo sticks, even paper straws that's a bonus.

Here is the good news...you don't even need instructions on how to do it!

Simply stuff the cardboard tubes full of dead leaves, twigs or anything else that you managed to find either in your garden or when you go out for the walk. Once you filled them up tie them together with the string and voila! You have a small, cosy shelter for your minibeast. Use your creativity to decorate them to your taste, you can paint on them, give them a name, you can glue some leaves on them, you can draw some bugs on them and so on.

Here are few tips and facts about the minibeasts and how to help them to have a grand life in your shelters.

**Most important is to choose a suitable spot for their home –**

most insects like shady, cool, moist areas so find them a shady spot next to a hedge, under the trees, under the bush or in the tall grass. Make sure it's well hidden and it's somewhere where their home can remain for at least a year or even longer. We don't want to uproot their home when they are sleeping or when they are raising their young! This could be in your garden, your court yard, somewhere in your local park, or in your street's hedge.

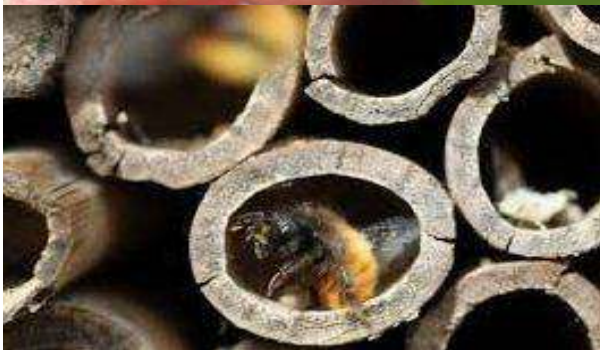


**We are all different and just like us, minibeasts are all different and they like different things to live in.**

**Woodlice, beetles and centipedes** like to burrow into dead, rotten wood. Decaying wood is really important for them.

**Ladybirds and lacewings** love to hide among the leaves in the crevices. Ladybirds hibernate under the leaf litter on the forest floor. Dry dead leaves provide a great shelter for them as well as pine cones.

**Bees** love hollow spaces like a bamboo!



# There are no rules for making a home for insects so be creative!

You can build them a Buckingham palace, bug hotel or just a small cosy shelter. You can use recycled plastic bottles, cans, tins, tissue box, wooden box or go wild and build big palace with crates and other things if you have a space in your garden. You can just collect small logs, large stick and pieces of rotting wood and pile them up in the quiet corner of your garden or outside area and don't forget to stuff some dead leaves in the gaps to make it cosy. Log piles like these also attract birds, frogs and hedgehogs , either looking for a shelter or tasty snacks. Who knows what you will discover under there in a few years. Your own creation of mini eco system!

Here are some of the examples of small, big and grand homes for the bugs.

