

Full instructions on how to make a bee hotel



You will need:

- Prepared empty plastic drinks bottle*
- Several card toilet rolls
- Pencil
- Marker pen
- Sellotape
- String
- Scissors
- Sharp knife and an adult

Instructions

1. Take a prepared plastic drink bottle (which has been cleaned, dried and has had the label removed and the top carefully removed by an adult using a craft/utility knife, ensuring the remaining bottle is at least 5cm longer than the length of the toilet rolls)*.
2. To make the first nesting compartments for the bees, use the scissors to cut a toilet roll all the way down its length.
3. Then place a pencil inside the card and use it to help you roll it up as tightly as you can to make a tube that looks like a fat drinking straw. When it's rolled up nice and tightly, use the sellotape to hold it in place.
5. Make more card straws and put them into the bottle until all the space is filled up.
6. Tie some string around the bottle so that you can hang your bottle up.
7. Hang it in a sunny, but sheltered spot outside and wait for your winged guests to arrive!

Your box must be at least a metre off the ground, with no vegetation blocking the entrance. It is important that the tubes are kept dry at all times*.

In spring, solitary bees may use the holes to nest, but it could take them a year to find it. In the meantime, spiders and other bugs will use the hotel too.

You may need to move your bee hotel in the autumn and winter to protect the nesting bees. Move your bee hotel to somewhere dry and cold; do not store in a warm place.