



Build a Bee House

And help protect a pollinator

Bee houses are simple to create and can be built using many materials that you have laying around the house already.

Drilled Wood Bee House

1. Build a wood box that is 8-12 inches deep.
2. Attach a sloped roof with an overhang to keep the rain out.
3. Drill 2-10 mm holes in your boards (boards should be just smaller than 8-12 inches. These holes should be spaced every inch or so. Do not drill all the way through the boards, the tunnels need an end.
4. Sand the opening of the tunnels to make sure there are no splinters.

Recycled Bottle and Bamboo House

1. Cut the bottom of the bottle off, leaving the cap on the top.
2. Cut the bamboo to fit inside the bottle.
3. Use modeling clay to cover the back end of the bamboo, creating a dead end to the tunnel.
4. Place the bamboo in the bottle and hang it up.

Placing Your Bee House

Bee houses should be placed in a sunny location, facing south or south east. They should be hung at least 3 feet above the ground. No leaves or plants should be in front of it. The bees need sunlight to keep warm.



Materials Needed

- Scrap wood, not treated
- Drill
- Drill bit
- Sandpaper
- Empty soda bottle
- Bamboo stakes with 2-10 mm diameters (from farden center)
- Modeling clay

Ask A Naturalist

There are more than 4,000 types of native bees in North America! Many of these bee populations are declining because of pesticide use, habitat loss and disease. These bees are great pollinators. A pollinator is an animal that move pollen from the male to the female parts of a flower which allows the plant to become fertilized. These bees are often solitary, meaning they live alone. They come in many shapes and sizes and are often mistaken for wasps and yellow jackets, but these native bees rarely sting. These bees can live in the ground, in rock crevices and existing holes or even holes they create themselves, like a carpenter bee hole.