

How to make a bug hotel

Resources: pallets, old tiles, bricks, plant pots, straw, dead leaves, sticks etc.

By making a bug hotel you will be providing the right habitats for many animals so will increase the numbers which come into your playground. This will include beneficial insects, some of which are declining in numbers.

The different materials and crevices can attract beetles, millipedes, centipedes, spiders, and woodlice, which children love to find. Many garden invertebrates need a safe place to hibernate through the winter, and cracks and crevices in the hotel are ideal.

Although frogs and toads need a pond to breed in, they can spend most of the year out of water. Stone and tiles provide the cool damp conditions that they need. The centre of the hotel will provide a frost-free place during the winter.



Place a pallet on the ground, make sure it is level - use bricks etc. at the corners to do this.



Fill the pallet with broken tiles or a similar heavy material.



Place a second pallet on top of the first and fill with a different material



Continue putting pallets on top of each other - filling each with a different material. 5 or 6 pallets should be enough. It is recommended to cover the top of your bug hotel, with a piece of turf or wood.



The children will enjoy both making the hotel and then hunting for animals which move in!