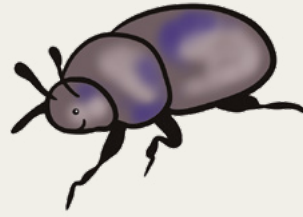


Making a bug hotel



This activity should be completely free to do, you may have to borrow some sandpaper and a hammer from a neighbour if you don't have these. A tin can makes a robust bug hotel but you will need help to sand the sharp edges. Alternatively you can also use rolled up cardboard instead, just tie the cardboard loosely with string.



- You could decorate your tins first – painting bee stripes or flowers
- You could paint string black and yellow and wind on the tin, and glue to create bee stripes
- If you are part of a school or community group you could use one big catering tin can to create a deluxe single tin hotel
- You can hang a single tin from a tree, make sure it faces the sun and if possible, near some flowers in the spring
- If you have some clay you can make a clay hotel, use a drill to drill out holes for bees
- You could scale up and use an old wooden pallet and use the gaps to fill with old bricks, logs with holes drilled in and rolled cardboard – more info [here](#)

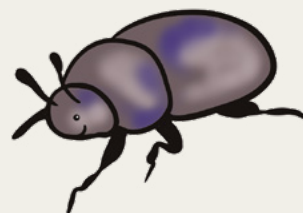
Equipment

- Empty tin cans or strong cardboard
- Can opener
- Sandpaper
- A small junior hacksaw
- Hammer
- A nail
- Dry bamboo, twigs, sticks, dry leaves, discarded tree bark, cardboard, loo roll tubes, small pinecones, hay or straw
- String
- Scissors



How to make it

- 1 Soak the tin cans in some warm soapy water, using dish washing water at the end of a meal would work just fine
- 2 Dry the tins carefully – watch the sharp edges
- 3 Get an adult to help you remove the lid and base of the tin
- 4 Also get an adult to help you sand the tin to remove any sharp edges. If using cardboard start here and roll a loose tube and tie with string so your filling will stay in place.
- 5 Now decide how big you want your hotel and how many layers. Nine tins is a good number but you can do less
- 6 If you haven't already, head outside to gather the things to put inside your tin cans
- 7 Different minibeasts and bugs like different textures and spaces in their homes – some like the holes that bamboo has, some like to be between leaves. Create different 'rooms' in your hotel. You could have one with twigs or bamboo and another with leaves or hay to attract different minibeasts and bugs
- 8 Cut any bamboo, using a hacksaw, and snap twigs to the length of your tin can – an adult might have to help you with this, if you use cardboard roll it up into tubes





- 9 If you are going to hang single bug hotel tins you'll need to use a nail and hammer to make a hole in the tin, get an adult to help you do this. Then you can thread through some string or twine
- 10 Fill your tins, don't leave too many empty spaces, if you are using twigs or bamboo then stuff tight so nothing can fall out
- 11 Now decide where your new bug and mini beasts will check-in to their new hotel! You want somewhere quite quiet and not likely to be disturbed. Some good places would be behind a shed, in a backyard, on an allotment near the compost heap, or in the corner of a balcony
- 12 Check on your bug hotel from time to time to see who has taken up residence. Remember to take pictures and share them on social media, tagging **@SAfoodforlife #FFLGetTogethers**



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