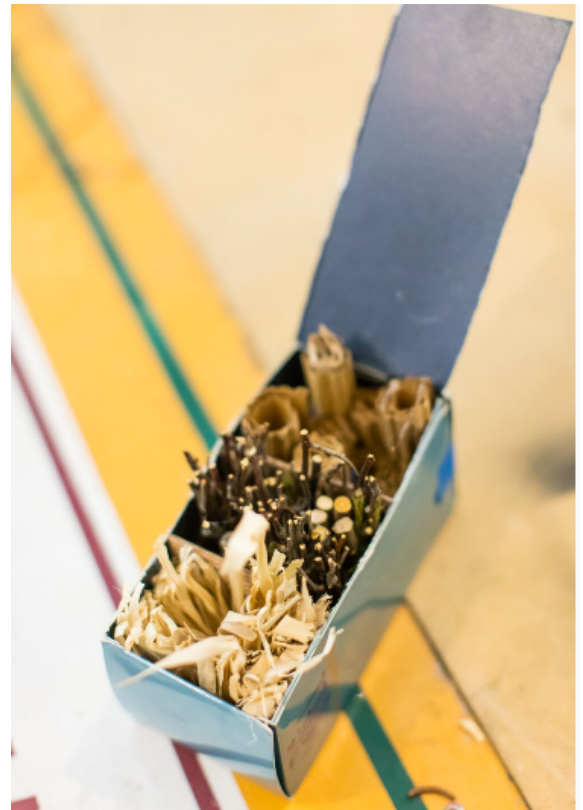


DIY: BUG HOTELS!

It's spring time in Texas! Using materials we find in and around our homes, we can create houses for our bug friends, the helpful pollinators that keep Austin beautiful!

MATERIALS:

- Variety of materials for filling
 - Sticks (small and large)
 - Pinecones
 - Wood chips
 - Paper
 - Cardboard
 - Dried grass/leaves
- Boxes (cardboard jewelry boxes, takeout containers, etc)
- Twine/yarn/cord
- Glue/hot glue gun
- Scissors
- Markers



HOW TO:

1. Begin with a box! Your box can be as big as a shoe box (OR BIGGER!) or as small as a take-out container.
2. First, decorate your hotel! What would you name your hotel? What does the outside of your hotel look like? Does it have a sign?
3. Next, decide what kind of bug you wish to invite into your bug hotel! On the next page you will find information on different important pollinators and what their homes look like!
4. Collect your materials and prepare them for your hotel. Cut materials down so they fit into your box without too much overhang.
PRO TIP: Sticks, grasses and other materials made up of many small bits are more easily glued into place if they are first tied together into bundles using twine, yarn, or cord.
5. Using cardboard or something similar, divide up your box into different hotel rooms! This will help to keep glued materials in a contained place and give some separation between bugs.
6. Start gluing! Fill each compartment with like materials! Don't be afraid to pack the materials into each room. Bugs like having a cozy place to live!
7. Once your hotel is complete, find the perfect spot for it outside! A well shaded and covered spot is a good choice! Check out the recommendations below for ideas!

Bug hotels give bugs a free place to live so they can help us with pollination and pest control.



Want to attract bees? Include some small holes in your hotel by rolling up paper or cardboard or including bundled up straws! This gives bees a safe place to lay their eggs so they can pollinate all the plants in your yard!

Do you love beetles? Bundled together, sticks and twigs of different sizes offer welcome lodgings for ground beetles and ladybugs! These bugs eat other insects that aren't as desirable to our yards like aphids and mites. BONUS: hover flies also love bundled sticks and they both pollinate and eat pesty bugs.



Crazy for lacewings? Create a cozy home for them by including straw, dried grass or rolled up cardboard! Lacewings love aphids and mites, making them a gardener's best friend and they have beautifully lacy wings!

Where should I put my bug hotel?!

GREAT QUESTION! Now that you have built a wonderful bug hotel, it's time to find the perfect location for it so all its rooms will fill! Find a spot in your outside that isn't too windy and protected from the rain. A great spot would be one that is near existing insect hotspots such as a hedge, a flower bed or a pond, just to name a few!

8. Source: <https://www.growveg.com/guides/insect-hotels-encourage-beneficial-insects-into-your-garden/>