

Brilliant Buzzy Bees



Sorry, no room at the Inn! The female of the non-aggressive mason bee species spends most of her life searching for hollow stems to use as a nest. So why not make a bee hotel for her to lay her eggs? Collect old flower stalks or bamboo canes, follow our simple steps and you could be watching the fascinating insects in your garden this summer.

What you will need

- A plank of untreated wood or ply at least 10cm wide
- A plentiful supply of hollow stems such as reeds, bamboo canes or old flower stems
- Wood saw, drill, screws and secateurs
- A mirror fixing for hanging the hotel

How to do it:

Step 1:

For this part of the making you will need some adult supervision and maybe a little help. Cut the plank into four pieces to make a rectangular frame for the bee hotel. Drill guide holes for the screws and assemble the frame as if making a box.

Step 2:

This is the fun bit, go for a wildlife wonder in your garden or local park and see if you can find hollow stems such as reeds, bamboo canes or flower stems. Try and find ones that are as straight as possible so that the female bee can lay her eggs in it. Once you have collected your stems snip them into lengths that are the depth of the box, remember no knobbly ones!

Step 3:

Now you need to carefully pack the frame of the bee hotel with the stems - only as you add the final few does the whole lattice lock solid. Bet it's looking great!



Step 4:

This next part is really important as you need to make sure you hang the hotel in the correct position. Your bee hotel needs to be on a sunny wall which is sheltered from the rain and

The bees will hopefully check-in to their hotel in the spring.