



DURRELL

BUG HOTEL DIY

How to make a bug hotel from recycled and natural material. Create a home and encourage invertebrates to move in!



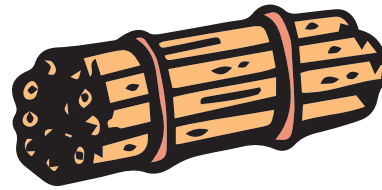
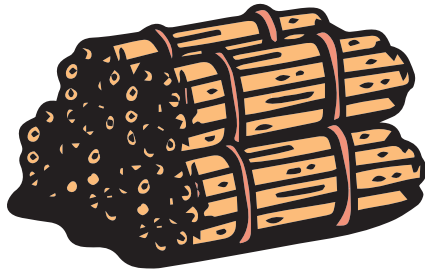
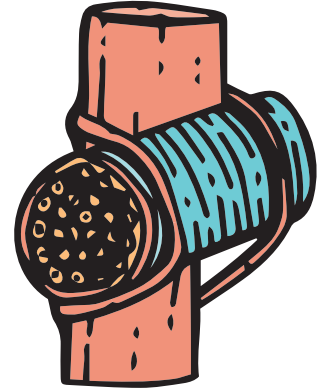
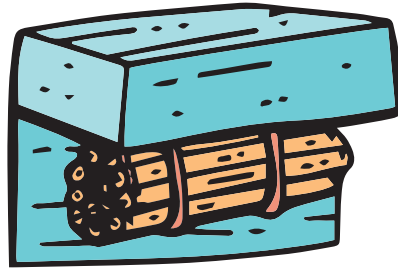
Jersey Zoo's Bug Hotel

WHY ARE INVERTEBRATES IMPORTANT?

Invertebrates are important for the environment and do many jobs. Some compost the soil by eating rotting plants and dead animals, and burrowing in the soil. Others provide food for birds and mammals, or eat smaller pests, making them an important link in the food chain. Many invertebrates take nectar from flowers, pollinating them as they go along. To help native invertebrates, you can make a bug hotel for them!

WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- Twigs and sticks
- String
- Scissors
- Metal can – recycle a food can (optional)
- Hollow plant stems such as bamboo (optional)



HOW DO I MAKE A BUG HOTEL?

1. The easiest way to make a nice home for these creepy crawlies is to collect sticks and twigs into a bundle.
2. Tie off the bundle with string. Tie the bundle quite tightly in two places.
3. You can also fit larger groups of sticks into recycled food cans. Try not to use anything plastic – like plastic bottles – in your bug hotel as the plastic will degrade over time.
4. These bundles should be tucked away in any sheltered site (such as a bush, or under a windowsill), or you can attach them to a tree.

GO WILD EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Another wildlife friendly idea is to make a log and leaf pile if you have a garden. Invertebrates like to live under and in rotting wood. You may even get a toad or hedgehog coming to see what's on the menu!

After you have created your wildlife friendly areas – do a bug hunt to see what has moved in! Use ID guides to identify what insects you can see.