

Bug Hotel Guide

We love burial grounds because there are usually good places for us to live with good things to eat.

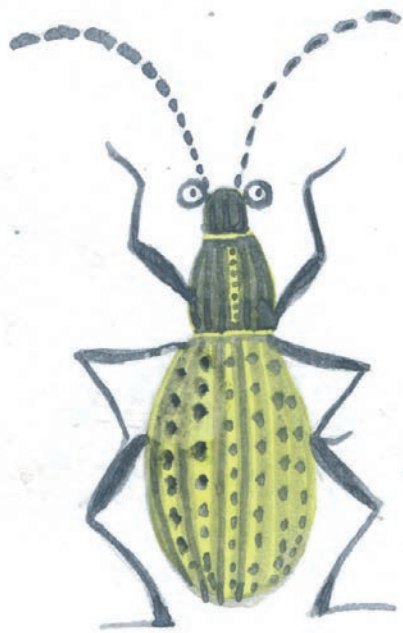


Sometimes we run out of good places to live because humans like to keep things too neat and tidy in the garden and in the school grounds.



You can help by building us a new home to live in. Some bugs like to live in damp and dark places.





Some of us like to live in the warm and dry. Either way, a bug hotel with lots of holes, crevices, gaps and cracks will keep us all happy.

They are so easy to make and you can use things that you already have lying around.



You could use

- Pallets, strips of wood and bamboo canes
- Cardboard tubes, corrugated card and drinking straws
- Straw, hay, dry leaf litter and moss
- Pine cones
- Different sized pipes
- Plant pots
- Stones, bricks and blocks
- Oasis with holes made with a pencil
- Tiles
- Logs drilled with different sized holes
- Dead hollow stems cut from shrubs and plants
- Turf
- Succulent plants or ivy



Let's get started

First things first, choose the right spot. A level, firm place in sunlight or light shade works well - most of us prefer moist and quiet areas so somewhere sheltered will be ideal. If you are using pallets you could fill each level with different conditions for different bugs. Try using wood, tubes, pots and pipes and cram these and the gaps between them with hay, dry leaves, bark, moss and straw (my favourite).



Keep stacking the pallets on top of each other and then you can create different conditions in each layer to keep a range of bugs happy and comfortable.

Arrange bricks, logs with holes in and plant pots together and fill these and the gaps between them with woodchips, leaf litter, pine cones, twigs and sand. You could stack wood on top of your bricks to create the next floor of the hotel.

Remember to keep your hotel dry. Roof tiles, a plastic sheet, old carpet tiles or roofing felt are ideal. On top of this you could plant sedum or other low growing drought tolerant plants or you could add turf, a worms favourite.

Be as creative as you want and enjoy building your 'Five Star Bug Resort!' All you have to do now is sit back, wait and watch while I check in.

