

# BUILD A 'BEE-FRIENDLY' HOME FOR YOUR GARDEN

## Materials:

- Recycled untreated timber off-cuts
- Nails
- Drill with 2mm to 10mm sized bits
- Hammer
- Mitre or hand saw
- Non-toxic paint

## How To:

**Step 1:** Gather your materials. Here we used bamboo from a neighbour, timber panelling off-cuts (10cm x 10mm) and small logs from an elderberry tree.

**Step 2:** Using a hand or mitre saw, cut the base 13cm long. Cut the sides to be 12cm tall with a 30 degree angle on top edge. Cut roof pieces 11cm long with a 30 degree cut where the ridge will meet.

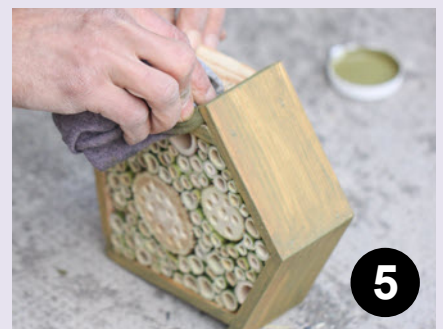
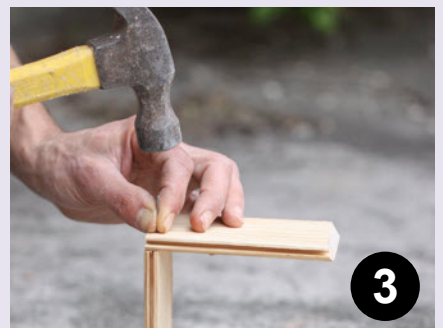
**Step 3:** Carefully nail the sides to the base, then add the roof and nail it to the sides to complete the structure. Pre-drill pilot holes to make it easier or use longer nails to make it stronger. The sloping overhanging roof will deflect rain.

**Step 4:** Cut all your filler material to the same depth (10cm) as the house. Place the bamboo inside with the logs packed tightly. As the wood dries out it will shrink a little. Drill holes between 2mm and 10mm in diameter in the logs at random, ensuring you do not make a hole all the way through to the opposite side as bees prefer a closed tunnel.

**Step 5:** Use an old rag and some left over non-toxic paint to create a decorative wash. Dip the rag in the paint, wipe it in along the grain and use a clean rag to wipe off any excess paint.

**Step 6:** Securely position on a sunny, south-facing wall or fence at least a metre from the ground. Bees don't like a house that is too shady, wobbles or is in a windy spot.

You'll know when bees are living in your house when you see the bamboo hollows filled up with mud, leaves or bits of fluff. When the tube end has been completely closed, it means that inside there are six to ten baby bees that will emerge next spring.



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Step  
by  
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Guide