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GUIDING, IN YOUR POCKET!



SEGMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Build a Native Insect Hotel

You will need

- A weatherproof container. This is the outside of your hotel building. Good materials include a tin can, an old mug, a flowerpot, or an ice-cream container. Cardboard is not so good, as it gets soggy very fast.
- A selection of items to make the “rooms” of your hotel. These items need to be:
 - 10-20 cm long
 - Hollow (3-10 cm wide is good)
 - Or with a soft pithy centre
 - More or less the same length – so trim things that are too long

Things that work well include:

- Bamboo canes
- Dead flower heads with hollow or soft stems
- Banksia flower cones
- Pinecones (not too many – they make a good filler, but the native insects don’t like them that much)
- Cardboard tubes such as paper drinking straws
- String, rope, or twine to hang your hotel or tie it in place in a tree

What you do

1. Fill your weatherproof container with the hollow sticks and other items you have found.
2. You might like to arrange the items in patterns or groups so that your hotel looks attractive.
3. Trim the ends so that they are fairly even.
4. Decorate the outside of your hotel if you’d like.
5. Hang your hotel in a sunny spot.

Hints

- Put your insect hotel in a sunny spot. Bees are cold blooded and like to keep warm.
- Place your insect hotel at least 1 metre above the ground. This will help prevent it being invaded by ants, snails, and other ground-dwelling insects.
- Tilt the front of your insect hotel just a little bit down. This stops it from filling with water when it rains.

Other Native Insect Hotels

- An alternative way of providing holes is to drill 3-7 mm holes in a block of untreated wood. They need to be quite deep, but they attract a different group of bees. Get an adult to help you with this!
- Some native bees make their homes in the ground – either directly in the earth or in a clay bank. You can make a hotel for these bees by filling the holes in a hollow brick with clay and poking bees sized holes in it. These hotels are best placed on the ground.

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