

How to build a Bee Box

It's really easy but you may want someone to help you. You will need:

Tools

- A hammer
- A screwdriver
- A drill
- About 12 nails (approx. 50 mm long)
- 2 screws (approx. X" or x mm)
- Some twigs, moss and straw
- A short piece of bendy plastic tube (25mm diameter) – electrical flex conduit is best, available from DIY stores

Wood

- 2 side panels – each 225mm x 125mm x 19mm
- 1 top panel – 264mm x 125mm x 9mm
- 1 bottom panel - 225mm x 125mm x 19mm
- 1 front panel – 144mm x 125mm x 19mm
- 1 back panel – 144mm x 125mm x 19mm

Step one

Drill a hole approx. 25mm in diameter about 25mm from the bottom edge. You can do this by drilling several small holes in a circle, knocking the panel out and tidying up the whole with a file or knife – just be careful!

Step two



Hold the two sides the width of the bottom panel (we have used a jig to hold ours but get someone to do it while you do step three)

Step three



Place the bottom panel on top of the sides and nail it using 4 nails (as shown)

Step four



Turn the box on its end and nail the blank back panel onto the box

Step five



Turn the box onto its other end and nail the front panel (the one with the hole), making sure the hole is at the side next to the bottom panel

Step six



Turn the box upwards and sprinkle the twigs in the bottom,

Step seven



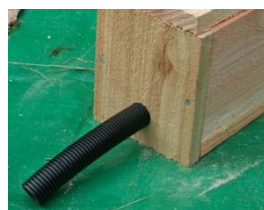
Now add the moss and straw loosely mixed together. Don't pack it down – leave it loose so that the bees can find their way around!

Step eight



Now place the lid on top and use two screws to fix it onto the box – this lets you empty the box out in January or February to repack it with fresh straw and moss.

Step nine



Push your plastic tubing into the hole on the front, making sure that it points downwards so that the rain won't pour in
You're now ready to put the box in the garden. Place it on the ground and cover it with stones so that the bees will think it's an old nest left by a mouse.