



Solitary Bee Spaces

Not all bees live in hives! Many bee species in North America are solitary, and prefer to create their own individual nests in various places, like abandoned rodent burrows or old insect tunnels in trees. Solitary bees are typically less aggressive because they do not have a hive to protect. Unfortunately, residential development is destroying the habitats of our native pollinators. To help provide habitat for solitary bees in your yard, follow the guidelines below!

Food

The most important thing you can do for the bees is to provide them with a food source. Wildflowers that are either nectar or pollen bearing (or both) are critical for sustaining all pollinator populations. Bees require nectar to give them energy for flying. Pollen is packed with important protein and fats that solitary bees use to feed their young. Plant a variety of native wildflowers in your yard to help feed the bees.

See our [Pollinator Plant Guide](#) to find out which plants are good for your backyard!



*Blanketflower by
Ashley Harricharan*

Water

All pollinators need fresh drinking water. An easy way to provide a water source is by filling a shallow dish with water and small rocks or marbles. This provides a safe place for them to land and drink without drowning. Be sure to change the water often to avoid transmitting diseases.

Shelter

Some solitary bees prefer to nest in the ground by digging tunnels that look similar to ant hills. A good way to help them out is by leaving undisturbed areas in your yard with bare, loose soil or sand, and ensuring they do not flood. Other bees prefer to nest in hollow plant stems, trees, or dead wood. To help wood-nesting bees you can create a bee box or bee hotel.

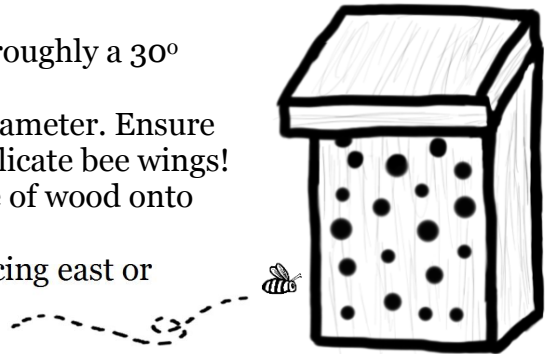
Scared of Stings? Don't BEE afraid!

Bees at flowers are only looking for food.
To avoid getting stung, observe and do not disturb.
If they come near you, stay calm, do not swat or run away.

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Bee Box

1. Begin by sawing the top of a wooden block at roughly a 30° angle.
2. Next, drill holes into the wood 2 – 10mm in diameter. Ensure holes are sanded so that they don't damage delicate bee wings!
3. Create a roof by gluing a second, thinner piece of wood onto the slope.
4. Hang on your fence using a nail, with holes facing east or south for morning sun.

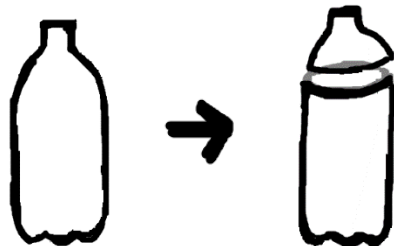


Bee Hotel

You Will Need:

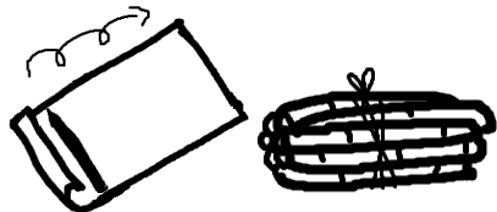
- A 2L plastic bottle
- Hollow bamboo stems OR newspaper
- Sticks, pinecones, dried leaves
- String

Step 1:



Start by cutting open your 2L bottle to make an entryway

Step 2:



Roll newspaper around a pencil or use bamboo stems to create a bundle, then tie them together with string

Step 3:



Pack the bottle with the bundle of tubes, along with sticks, pinecones, and dried leaves for nesting material

Step 4:



Hang your hotel on a tree branch in a sunny spot, and wait for the bees to make their nests!