

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Build an insect hotel

Why build an insect hotel?

All of our gardens provide habitat for a wide range of living creatures and can provide a home for up to 2,000 different species of insects. Many of these can help us to control the pests that eat our flowers, fruit and vegetables. By providing the correct habitats we can greatly increase the number of beneficial insects in our gardens and also provide a home to those that are in decline.

An “insect hotel” is a structure made entirely from re-cycled materials such as wood, discarded pallets, old terracotta plant pots, dry leaves, bark, straw and hay. Each section of the hotel is filled with a different material that provides an excellent habitat for a wide range of insects. You can choose what you put in your hotel but here is a list of suggestions:



- **Dead Wood** – this is essential for the larvae of wood-boring beetles and the crevices under the wood attract centipedes and woodlice
- **Stray and hay** – provides a safe hibernation site for many insects to burrow into
- **Terracotta plant pots** – Amphibians also need a frost-free place to spend the winter and old plants pots provide cool, damp conditions that are loved by frogs, newts and toads
- **Dry leaves** – these mimic the forest floor where many insects make their home

Make sure that your hotel has lots of crevices, nooks and crannies for the insects to climb into to keep warm in winter or to hibernate in.

Where to site your hotel

Most insects like cool, damp conditions so try to site your hotel in semi-shade. Putting the hotel close to a hedge or pond will make it easier for the small creatures to find it. Finally chose an even surface and a firm base.

Make a pledge to build an insect hotel

Building an insect hotel is one of the wildlife “pledges” that you can make to help FWAG celebrate its 40th anniversary. To make your pledge visit the FWAG website on www.fwag.org.uk

Further Information

For further information contact FWAG by emailing pledge@fwag.org.uk or telephone 024 76 696699.

FWAG’s primary role is to offer conservation advice to farmers and landowners.