

the hidden gardens

Wildlife Homes and Shelters

There are many ways to attract wildlife, but providing shelter for birds, small mammals, amphibians, and invertebrates is one way to ensure they will make your garden their home and help to create diversity and balance. Here are a few of the ways we give wildlife a home at The Hidden Gardens:



Birdboxes - Click [here](#) to find out how to build your own:



Bug hotels – design it to fit your space and be creative. We have a magnificent stack of pallets filled with recycled and natural materials to provide a variety of habitats from dry shade to cool damp, from warm dry spots to safe little crevices. Dead wood will provide a habitat for wood burrowing beetles, and crevices will be filled with spiders, centipedes and woodlice. Hollow stems and old bamboo canes make good homes for solitary bees with different sizes suiting different species.



Or use a wooden box or bricks to make a smaller version. Anything that will add shelter, shade and warmth will be a welcome addition and you can get creative with pinecones, seedheads, moss, hollow stems....



Hibernaculum - a cool, damp space, tucked under piles of pallets and logs covered with soil, old leaves and vegetation, will give frogs and toad a space to overwinter before heading for the nearest bit of open water in the Spring.



Bird roosting pouch – twist some dried leaves and stems from perennials into a wee roosting pouch to tuck into a hedge or in the nook of a tree branch. Line the centre with some cosy moss or wool to give the birds extra warmth or material for nest building.



Solitary bee home – tie a bundle of hollow stems together and hang in a sheltered spot. Use a variety of sizes to encourage different species or you could cram them into an old terracotta pot to provide a little shelter from the rain.



Log piles and leaves – ideally left undisturbed to slowly rot in corners of the garden, provide homes for burrowing beetles, woodlice, centipedes. Piles of dry leaves or undisturbed compost heaps will shelter a hedgehog over winter.

