

Bee Nesting Box Set Up and Maintenance Guide



Step 1) Set up your bee nesting box:

- Remove the bee nesting box from the packaging and ensure paper tubes and wooden blocks are securely placed inside wooden frame.



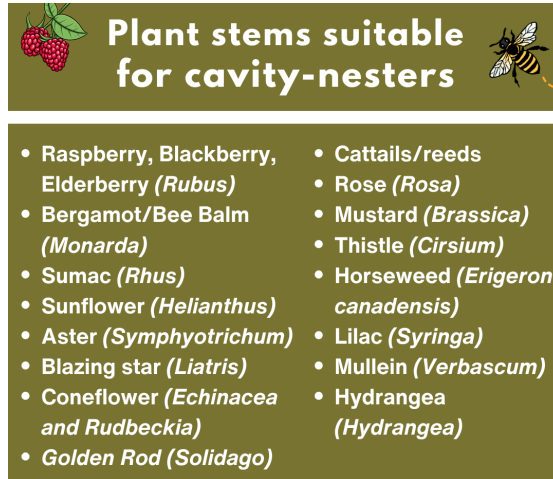
Step 2) Install bee nesting box outside:

- Place bee nesting box outside by early May, to give early emerging bees the best chance to nest.
 - *Note: You can install until the end of July and support later-emerging bees.*
- Ideally place your box within 100 metres of foraging resources, such as wildflowers.
 - *Note: 100 metres is approximately the length of one football or soccer field.*
- Place nesting box in a stable, fixed position about 1 to 1.5 metres from the ground.
 - Consider securing the box to the side of a shed, garage, fence, fence post, or another sturdy object.
 - Avoid dangling your nesting box by wires or mounting it to an unstable structure. Wind may move or shake the nesting box, which can disturb developing bee larvae.
- If possible, face the nesting box entrance towards the south or southeast.
- Shield nesting box from rain, wind, and direct afternoon sunlight.
 - For example, the eaves of a house, garage, or shed can provide protection from the elements.



Step 3) Watch and wait:

- When the bee nesting box is placed securely outside, cavity (or tunnel) nesting bees can fill the tubes/tunnels with eggs.
- From a safe distance, watch to see if bees are using your nesting box. One sign is if the tubes/tunnels appear to be capped or plugged (this means eggs are inside).
 - *Note: You can take photos of bees using your nesting box and upload photos to the iNaturalist app to identify the species. See enclosed iNaturalist Guide for more details.*
- Eggs will continue to develop in the tubes throughout the season and or winter and will emerge as adults from the nesting box next spring or summer, depending on the species.



Step 4) Maintain your nesting box:

- If you would like to provide a home for bees to nest in the following year, you must clean out your nesting box annually to prevent disease from spreading and/or pests from using the nesting box.
- Wait until bees from the previous year have emerged from the nesting box (tunnel entrances will no longer be fully capped with material), then clean and set it up again.
- Paper tubes/tunnel maintenance:
 - Remove and dispose of used tubes and replace with new, clean paper straws/tubes ranging between 5-10 millimetres in diameter. You can also use certain plant stems. (Refer to image above).
 - Note: Extra replacement paper tubes are provided.
- Wooden drill blocks maintenance:
 - Clean out holes thoroughly to remove material inside, using a pipe cleaner, small straw brush, or by blowing compressed air inside.
 - Once clear of debris, spray or pour a 10% bleach solution into holes and leave to dry. This sanitizes blocks from mites and parasites. Alternatively, roast the blocks in an oven at 200°F for 3-4 hours, monitoring closely.
 - Once cleaned, the blocks can be re-used.
- If you do not wish to use your nesting box again, please wait until all bees have emerged/exited, before removing your bee nesting box from outside. Consider gifting your box to a friend or family member but be sure to include this guide so they have the resources to install and maintain the nesting box.



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