

**Small things
can have a
big impact:**

Build an insect hotel.

Wild bees, bumblebees and other insects make valuable contributions to **maintaining the ecological balance** in our gardens and in agriculture. **An insect hotel helps** the animals to hibernate and is an **important nesting aid**. It is important that the individual elements for the insects are mounted **on a wall** and protected from rain and snow. For example, you can make a roof out of two boards of 50x25 cm with a thickness of about 2 cm and screw it together with a wooden harass. **You can then set up the «rooms»** for the various insect guests in it.

Wooden rods as nesting aids

- You need dry hardwood such as ash or oak, 10 to 15 cm thick.
- Drill holes up to 10 cm deep with a cordless drill. Caution: Do not drill completely through the wood, the nest tubes must be closed at the back.
- Diameter of the wood drill 3 to 8 mm, leave enough space between the holes.
- Clean the holes carefully and sand the edges so that the bees do not injure themselves.

Life in a tin can

- You need an empty tin can
- Cut dried, hollow plant stems of reed, elder or bamboo to the length of the tin can. In case of the bamboo, make sure that about 10 cm of open tube is left (drill out the «knots» in the stalk if necessary).
- Fill hard and soft stems tightly into the tin so that the material does not fall out loosely. As a variation, the tin can also be filled with dry grasses or straw.

Shelter for earwigs in a clay bell

- You need a flower pot with a diameter of about 12 cm
- Tie straw and dry grasses together in a bundle with string and pull the string through the hole in the bottom of the pot.
- Hang the filled pot on a branch in a shady place. Not in the direct vicinity of the insect hotel for wild bees, otherwise the earwig will eat the bees' eggs or larvae.