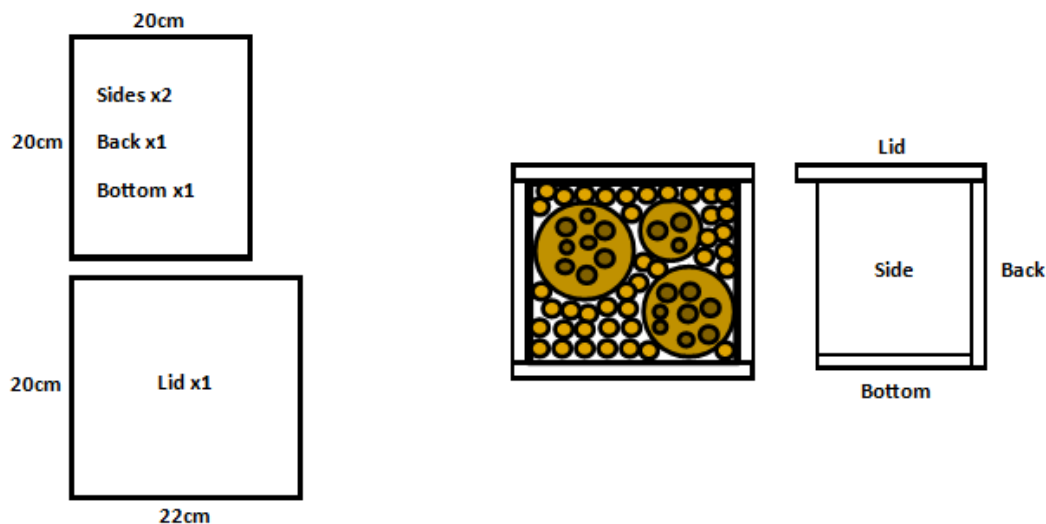


Helping Nature at Home

Making a Solitary Bee Home – help out our native solitary bee species by providing them with a home and a place to lay their eggs



What you will need:

- Offcuts of untreated wood (1.5cm thick)
- Nails or screws, hammer, tape measure, drill, and drill bits (in various sizes ranging from 2-6mm in diameter)
- Logs, bee tubes, bamboo canes or dried plant stems

Instructions:

1. First take your offcuts and cut them into the sizes in the diagram above. It is important to use untreated wood as the chemicals in treated wood can be harmful to bees.
2. Nail or screw the cut wood to form a box like in the diagram above. One piece should be wider than the others and used to form an overhanging lid. Next attach the back piece of wood to the back of your box.
3. Take one of your logs and cut it to 20cm in length. Drill various sized holes using your drill bits to a depth of at least 15cm. The depth needs to be a minimum of 15cm as this allows the correct ratio of female and male eggs to be laid. Depending on the width of your logs you may wish to make more than one to put inside your bee home.
4. Taking your cut log or logs, place them inside your bee home. Next fill the gaps around your logs with either the bee tubes (which can be bought online), bamboo canes (cut to fit the home) and/or dried hollow plant stems. Giving the bees a variety of different sized materials will allow more species of bee to use your home. In fact, the UK has 250 different species of solitary bee, and they are excellent pollinators of plants.
5. Once your bee home has been filled and finished it is time to find a good spot for it in your garden. Ideally it should be in a place which gets full sunshine and is at least 1m off the ground, a wall or fence is a great place to attach it to. Having nearby flowers and plants will hopefully attract the bees to your home and provide them with an invaluable nectar source too.