

WILD YOUR SPACE

Wild your school
Rewild your children



It's about much more than just our beloved invertebrates because more bugs can mean more birds and other wonders such as frogs, toads and even hedgehogs. It's amazing how one small change can kick off big biodiversity wins.

Bug Hotels

Whether you plan to create a multistorey Buckingham Palace with recycled pallets, or something much simpler using sticks, cardboard and twine, hopefully you will find the information that you require on this page. As you will see, we have included several links to useful videos below. And, as you would expect, there are plenty others available on-line.

But first – here are some Bright Green Nature **Top Tips...**

- You can build a bug hotel at any time of the year, but autumn is when most natural materials are readily available, and when your lovely bugs will be thinking about finding somewhere cozy to hide away for the winter.
- Different bugs like different things, so the more diverse your selection of materials, the more diverse your range of residents will be.
- Ideal materials include – dry leaves, twigs, hollow stems, dead grass, pine cones, bark, larger pieces of dead wood, stones and broken bricks.
- Give consideration to the best locations, as where you put your hotel may determine who comes to visit. Generally you are looking for level and fairly firm ground, and think about sunlight or shade. An area next to a hedge could be good for most bugs.
- Deadwood and damp conditions will attract woodlice, centipedes, beetles and spiders – whereas ladybugs prefer dry leaves, small sticks and straw.
- Some form of roof (to keep out most of the rain) is always a good idea. This could be an old plank, some old slates or some large chunks of bark.
- Lots of bug hotels have hollow tubes, or wood with drilled holes – these are a favourite for solitary bees, who prefer a south facing, dry and sunny spot. See separate Bee House link below.
- Keep it as nature friendly as possible. Some will suggest painting your bug hotel, but we'd rather you didn't. And obviously keep them as far away as you can from any areas that may still use nasty pesticides and/or horrible weedkillers.
- Spreading some locally sourced native wildflower seeds in the immediate area is another great way to increase bug numbers. All the very best hotels have nice gardens after all.

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Recommended Web Links

- **Basic (Youth Hostel)**

This short BBC video will give you an idea how to make something that is quick and easy. They use a plant pot, but you can get the same result with an old plastic bottle or even just cardboard. How to make a bug hotel [bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z3r346f](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z3r346f)

- **Mid-range (Travel Lodge)**

This RSPB video shows how to create something a bit larger, using a wider range of materials. How to Make a Bug Hotel: DIY Bug Hotel Ideas. [rspb.org.uk/helping-nature/what-you-can-do/activities/build-a-bug-hotel](https://www.rspb.org.uk/helping-nature/what-you-can-do/activities/build-a-bug-hotel)

- **Luxury (Hilton)**

The National Trust video explains what you can do if you have access to pallets and bricks etc. How to make a bug hotel [nts.org.uk/stories/how-to-make-a-bug-hotel](https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/how-to-make-a-bug-hotel)

- **Bee House**

Another RSPB link which is worth a visit if you are considering giving bees their very own (and well deserved) home - base-prod.rspb-prod.magnolia-platform.com/dam/jcr:159147fa-0296-44e0-94c9-9f7324aba473/make-a-bee-house.pdf

Learning Opportunities and Identification

We want you to attract bugs, and we want children to be attracted to bugs. Encourage them to get up close, to handle them gently, and to start being able to identify them (see below). Count how many bugs they can spot and do regular surveys to record the positive impact of your changes.

This link to the Woodland Trust is helpful for insect identification.

[woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2023/10/common-uk-insect-identification](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2023/10/common-uk-insect-identification)

Also, when you are out and about, Google Lens can be an excellent tool, but if like us, you'd rather not be using mobile phones as tools with young children, then source a book from the library, or perhaps second hand from ebay.

The Ultimate Bug-Opedia by National Geographic Kids is one that we'd recommend, but there are so many to choose from.

NB – On the following page you will see a sheet which we compiled for a local Primary 3 Class to assist them with basic identification when they were making small bug hotels for their adjacent woodland area.

This was quick and easy, and by initially not providing the individual invertebrates names it kept them guessing and thinking.

This particular sheet (which you are welcome to print and use) shows many of the popular visitors that you would expect to show interest in new bug hotels. They are...

- Ladybug
- Woodlice
- Hoverfly
- Centipede
- Ant
- Butterfly
- Lacewing
- Earwig
- Solitary bee
- Beetle
- Spider

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Still Need a Hand?

If you are looking for materials, such as pallets and brick, just ask a local building company, or building supply company. Often they will be keen to help out a local school and may supply and deliver for free (never any harm in asking).

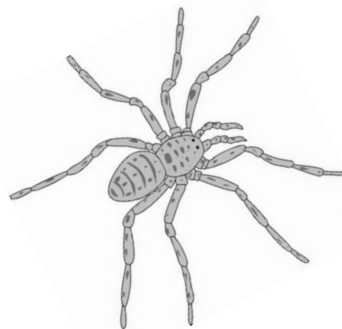
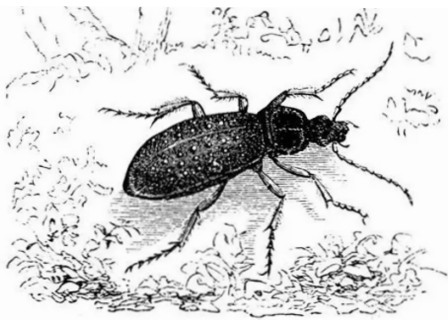
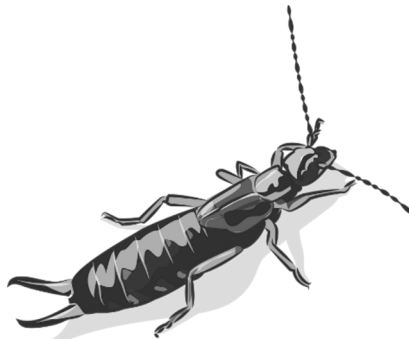
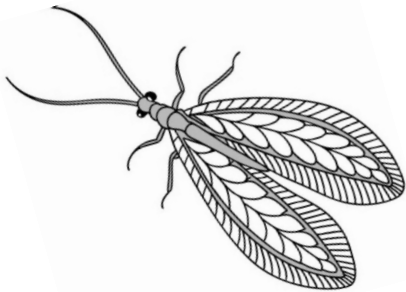
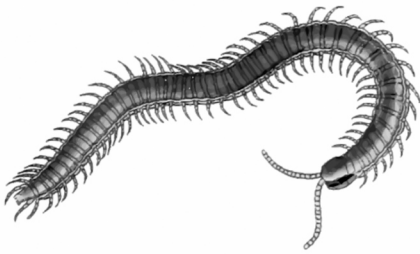
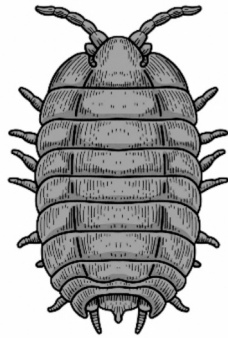
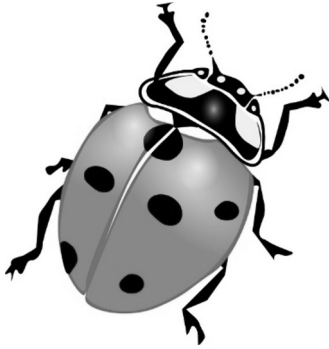
For building skills there is normally one of two parents who can volunteer, and they may have their own tools.

And, if you get stuck – never hesitate to ask the **Bright Green Nature** team for some friendly advice.

That's what we're here for!

Primary School

What guests might want to stay at our new Bug Hotel?



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