

How to Make a Bee Hotel

Materials:

garden canes
ceramic flower pot
modelling clay
tape
small hacksaw - see hacksaw safety below

How to use a hacksaw safely

Always wear protective gloves, a hacksaw blade is unforgiving. Hold the hacksaw as you might an iron, with your hand on the upper part of the frame that holds the blade. When you begin cutting, begin slowly to establish a groove in the material that the saw blade can take hold of. You can build up a little speed once the blade is securely in the groove. Only apply pressure when the saw blade is on the downstroke. Use strokes that are long, matching the blade length.



Method



Cut the canes with the saw so they are a bit shorter than the height of the flower pot. Bind together with some tape. I used masking tape, which you can buy from a DIY shop.

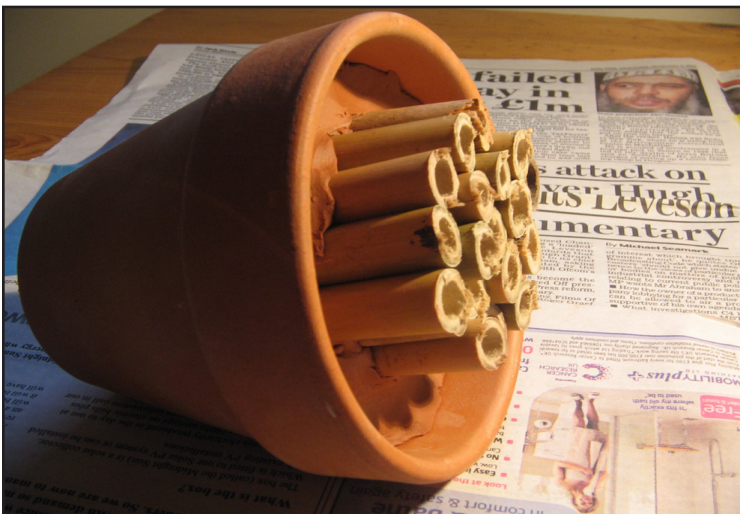


Secure the end of the canes in some modelling clay. The clay used here is air drying modelling clay from Hobbycraft.

How to make a Bee Hotel, continued...



Place the canes inside the flower pot.
Add more clay around the canes to fully secure them.



Place the flower pot on its side in your garden, in full sun, facing south or south east. Plus your box must be at least a metre off the ground, with no vegetation blocking the entrance. Then wait for the Bees to investigate it in the spring.



For a gift idea, add a small label and give to a friend or relative.

For more information on Bee Hotels,
visit the Friends of the Earth website:
www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefing_notes/bee_hotel.pdf