

# How to Make a Bee House

## Materials

*Untreated wood*

*Drill + drill bits*

*Logs or untreated timber*

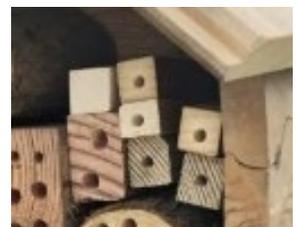
*Sandpaper*

*Nails/screws*



## Building Instructions

1. Make a box out of wood that's open on one side and has a slanted roof with an overhang. The box should be at least 8" deep (possible dimensions: 12" high, 12" wide, 8" deep).
  - a. In general, smaller is better! If you want to scale up and have a larger bee house, make sure you are equipped to take care of it, and that you have ample flowering trees and bushes for all the bees.
2. Gather untreated timber or logs up to about 7" long. Make sure the logs are not cracked or split, as that can invite pests and fungus.
3. Drill holes of varying diameters - between  $\frac{3}{32}$ " and  $\frac{3}{8}$ " - into your timber or logs. Holes smaller than  $\frac{1}{4}$ " in diameter should be 3-4" deep, and holes larger than  $\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter should be 5-6" deep. Do not drill all the way through to the opposite end.
  - a. Feel free to just use the smaller 4"x4" or 1"x1" blocks with a single hole (see image).



4. Use sandpaper to make sure the open ends of the holes are smooth and have no splinters.
5. Stack your logs/timber inside the box.
6. Location is very important! Nail the bee house to a wall or fence so that is securely attached. It should be approximately 4 to 5ft off the ground and facing east/southeast so that it gets the morning sun. Water should not be able to easily reach the nest. It is best to place the bee house near wildflowers or other foraging plants so that the bees can easily access pollen and nectar; just make sure the plants don't obscure the bee house!

### **Maintenance & Additional Tips**

1. Replace logs/timber every summer after the bees have emerged. This is crucial as it will prevent the spread of fungus molds, pests, and parasites.
2. Be patient! It may take months or longer for bees to locate your plants and bee house. Summer is the peak time for activity.