

# IT'S A BUG'S LIFE!

## building a bug hotel



Photo: MajanCernelj / shutterstock.com

WILDLIFE needs a home - just like YOU do!

Tell your parents to resist the urge to over-tidy your garden this fall. Leaving those piles of leaves and sticks to decompose returns nutrients to the soil and provides habitat for insects and other wildlife species.

Don't stop there! Go a step further and create habitat for insects by gathering various garden materials and building an insectarium or "bug hotel"!

### why is this important?

By creating a diverse habitat in your backyard you will be making it a better home for more kinds of wildlife and you'll also be *increasing your backyard biodiversity*. You may notice more birds (who feed on the insects) and other species too.

### you'll need:

- old wood
- various-sized sticks
- planks
- bricks
- moss
- leaves
- use your imagination!

### what to do:

#### gather your materials

Look around and see what is available to use, reuse or up-cycle. Old wood, tree and shrub prunings or hollow bamboo tubes all make good material to build with. Ask your parents if they have some clay pots and shingles to stack or old pieces of wood that you can (with help) drill holes into.

#### choose a location

You know the saying: location, location, location! Select somewhere in your yard that is away from traffic and disturbance. Perhaps against a back fence or in a seldom-used corner.

#### construct your bug hotel

Build with diversity in mind. If you make a hotel with lots of different hidey holes and other types of "rooms" you will be more likely to have a variety of guests come to stay in your hotel. Use your imagination and create a hotel that is fun to look at and inviting to bugs and amphibians.

#### step back and admire your work!

- Keep an eye out to see who checks into your bug hotel....
- Notice who else comes along (maybe to eat your guests!).
- If you like, send us a picture from your guests' "vacation"!

For more ideas on exploring nature with your family visit the Young Naturalists' Club at [www.ync.ca](http://www.ync.ca). If you are already a member of the YNC remember you can use Make a Bug Hotel as part of your Bronze Action Awards Quest!

