



**Baltimore Woods  
Nature Center**  
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# Build an Insect Hotel

Baltimore Woods is home to many different types of insects. Since insects are so different, they all like to live in different habitats. One way that we can observe insects, and create ideal habitats for them, is by creating insect hotels! By using various natural materials, many people create small hotels to encourage insects to inhabit their yards and gardens or just to create more spaces for beneficial insects to live. Today we will make our very own insect hotel together!

## Materials:

- Any kind of container
- Natural materials like sticks, leaves, and rocks
- String or yarn (optional)





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## Instructions: Insect Hotel

1. Choose a container for your insect hotel. I used a glass jar so I could see all the insects. You can use anything container, like a clean tin can, cardboard, wood box, or plastic bottle. Be sure the opening is big enough to fit all your materials. Feel free to decorate your container however you would like!



2. Collect natural materials. Look around your backyard or take a walk around your neighborhood to find things like sticks, dry leaves, rocks, or dried seed pods. Use your imagination and try to think of what the insects around you might like the best. Be sure to collect carefully!

3. Carefully place your natural materials inside your container. Be careful not to pack your hotel too tightly, you want plenty of space for your crawling friends to come in and out of the hotel! When placing things, try to think of what might make it look like the insect's natural habitat, bugs love to find nooks and crannies.



4. (optional) If you would like to hang your hotel in a tree or bush to see what insects would find your hotel in that area, tie string or yarn around both ends of your container. Then, hang your hotel in a shaded area in a tree or bush!



5. If you are not hanging your insect hotel, place it on the ground in a heavily shaded area. Avoid any spots that are in direct sunlight.

6. Just wait and see what creatures decide to book a trip to your insect hotel!

## Ask yourself...

- What insects do you think will find your hotel first?
- Why do you think insects like the small, dark spaces that insect hotels create?
- How could an insect hotel be good for a garden?



\*For a challenge, create multiple insect hotels and place them in different areas of your yard to see if they attract different types of insects!