

Hedgehog House



Help out one of our favourite garden visitors by building a home for them.



Hedgehogs nest in many different places during the day; log piles, hedgerows, scrub or brambles, coming out to feed when it gets dark. During winter they hibernate and need a very durable place to stay safe for the cold months. This is called a hibernacula, and this guide will help you to make one for your garden. During the spring mothers look for a place to raise their babies, the home may also be a safe place for them too.

What you'll need:

- A garden with gaps under gates and fences so hedgehogs can come and go to feed
- An adult – supervision and help are needed for this task.
- Untreated wood – Softwood (from evergreen trees such as larch or fir) from a store. Or re-use an unpainted wooden pallet – always check the pallet stamp
- Roofing felt, scissors and flat headed tacks.

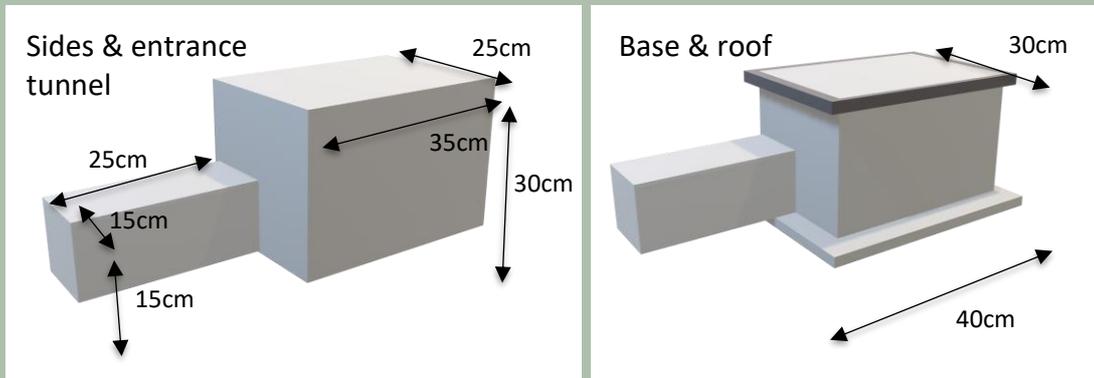
Pallet Stamps

To keep your wildlife and yourself safe choose a pallet has not been chemically treated. The stamp will show either:

- ✓ DB = Debarked wood
- ✓ HT = Heat treated
- ✓ KD = Kiln dried
- ✓ DH = Dielectric Heated
- X MB = Methyl Bromide

What to do/instructions:

1. Measure and mark the size of the wood you need to cut. Wear gloves on to protect you from splinters. You'll need a front and back (both the same size). 2 sides (both the same size), 3 tunnel sides (all same size), a roof and a base (both the same size). All measurements are given below.



The tunnel keeps wind, rain, and predators out, don't make this smaller than advised as hedgehogs eat lots before hibernation and may not fit through. Tip: Put a twig over the tunnel entrance if it's been disturbed you may have had a visitor.

2. Cut the wood, use an un-gloved hand to hold the saw so that you have a safe grip. If using pallet wood, use smaller sections of wood to bracket the pallet lengths together to make the sides.
3. Cut a 15x15cm hole in the front piece in the bottom left hand corner for the tunnel entrance.
4. Fix all pieces of the tunnel together and attach to the front piece.
5. Then fix the sides and back together and attach to the front piece.
6. Fix the base to the hedgehog home. The lid does not need fixing in place, this is so that at the end of winter (March/April) you can easily clean out ready for the next hedgehog. Don't open after this time as mothers may abandon hoglets if they are disturbed.
7. Attach two lengths of wood to the underside of the roof, these sit within the sides, approximately 10cm from the edges of the roof. This stops the roof from being knocked off easily by curious cat/dog.



8. Cut the felt for the roof (40x50cm) and fold it over the edges, fix in place with tacks.
9. Cut roofing felt for the tunnel (45x40cm), wrap it over the top and the sides pieces. Where the tunnel meets the front of the main section fold the felt 5cm up and tack into place. This will protect any joins from rain.

The roofing felt keeps the inside dry and insulated. This maintains humidity and stops the hedgehog getting dehydrated while asleep

Making a house a home

Place on stones/pebbles to keep it raised in case of heavy rain. Fill the house with dried leaves or straw, place in a quiet sheltered corner and cover with branches or leaves. If putting out food leave it outside so not to disturb any visitors.

We would love to see your creations! Share your photos with us on Instagram or twitter [/cityoftreesmcr](#)



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