

Activity: Make a BEE HOTEL

Today, you're going to make a Mason Bee Hotel using materials around your house. Roots & Shoots leader on the National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC) Maddy Gregg, is going to help! She created The Thriving Hive Project.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

The most common of the solitary bees are Mason Bees. Mason bees don't build wax comb or produce honey. They don't stay in a hive, instead they lay their eggs in small tube-like holes and seal them with mud.

HOW TO START: Watch Maddy Gregg's instructional video for help building your Mason Bee Hotel!

MATERIALS:

- A container to build your hive in. A box, can, jar, or mug will work!
- Any tube shaped objects to fill your container. Try bamboo shoots or rolled up magazine pages, just be sure they have a diameter of 8 mm to 1in.
- Twine or string to hang your hotel.

FUN FACTS!

- Mason Bees pollinate 20 times more than the Honeybee!
- Unlike most bees, Mason Bees rarely sting. Their stingers cannot penetrate skin.

Instructions:

1. Clean your container base.
2. If you are creating your own tubes, roll up and secure material to create tubes with a hollow diameter of 8 mm to 1 in. You can secure material using tape or small rubber bands.
3. Fill your base with your tubes, making sure that you put enough tubes in your base to not move around.
4. Cut two pieces of twine at three feet each. Tie the ends of one piece of twine together to form a loop, then repeat with the other piece of twine.
5. Lay your loops on a flat surface and place your hive on top of them so that there's a piece of twine on either end of it.
6. Lift your twine loop up and around your container and feed one end through the other, then pull tight. Repeat this with your other piece of twine.
7. You're Mason Bee hotel is now ready to hang! Hang your bee hotel outside in a sunny spot hanging south. Watch your hotel to look for new residents!



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