Build Your Own Insect Hotel

**Take Action:** Help little brown bats by providing houses for insects to live in. This will help provide more food for bats in the city!

### Construct Your Frame

You can build your own frame or use reclaimed materials such as:
- terra cotta planter
- wooden cartons
- tin cans
- wooden picture frames
- water jugs

Make sure that your frame leaves enough room to hold nesting materials, opens at one end and close at the other and keeps the nesting materials dry when it rains.

### Choose Your Nesting Materials

Use reclaimed and repurposed materials such as:
- paper straws
- plant stems or twigs
- bamboo poles
- bricks
- pine cones
- dried leaves
- drilled logs

Drill a variety of different sized holes in solid pieces of wood. Different insect species, such as bees, prefer different widths and depths for shelter and egg-laying.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hole Size</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3&quot;</td>
<td>Drill larger holes deeper</td>
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<tr>
<td>6&quot;</td>
<td>Vary depth from 3&quot;–6&quot;</td>
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### Assemble Your Hotel

Secure leaves and other loose nesting materials behind chicken wire. Make sure logs and bricks and other heavier materials are secure enough that the wind won’t move them!

Hang your insect hotel at least 5 ft from the ground, facing south and in the sun.

### Observe & Maintain

Observe your hotel for visiting insects like bees, hoverflies, beetles, ladybugs and more! Bats are nocturnal, which means they are active at night. Watch them swoop near your insect hotel after the sun sets!

You can maintain your insect hotel by cleaning it out each spring and adding fresh nesting materials.

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**Little Brown Bats and Insects**

Little brown bats are a native species in Chicago and eat insects, which benefit all of us as insect population control. In one night little brown bats can eat up to half their body weight in insects!