

# Like it? Make it!

# A BUZZIN' BEE HOTEL



Our precious bees are running out of places to live, so build them this brilliant home so that they can buzz around your garden...



## What you'll need

- Large yellow tub or bucket
- Small plant pot
- Black electrical tape
- Small hack saw
- Bamboo sticks
- Some bee-friendly plants, such as cornflower, sunflower, heather or lavender
- Potting soil
- Modelling clay
- White paper
- Black and yellow pens
- String

## Start here!

**1** Stick the black tape onto the yellow tub in bee-like stripes. Then ask an adult to help you make some holes in the bottom for drainage.

**2** Pour the soil into the tub, leaving a 5cm space at the top. Now, carefully remove the plants from their pots, place them in the soil and pat the soil down around them.

**3** Next, ask an adult to cut the bamboo into about 15, 25cm lengths and one 70cm length. Then tie them in a bundle with a piece of string, keeping the long piece of bamboo in the middle.

**4** On the piece of paper, draw two windows, then cut them out and stick them onto the small plant pot so that it looks like a hotel.

**5** Next, roll a ball of modelling clay and stick it inside the bottom of the small plant pot. Then put the pot on top of the bamboo, so that the flat end of the bundle sticks into the clay.

**6** Finally, put the long stick of bamboo into the soil of the yellow tub, water the plants and then just wait for the bees to come. *Buzz!*

**Top tip!**  
Bees like warmth, so put their new home in a south-facing area of your garden.

## ALL ABOUT BEES

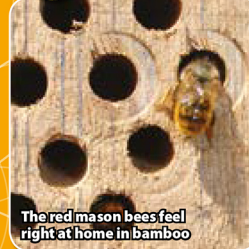
Check out this swarm of bee facts...

**1** There are about 250 species of bee in the UK, but your buzzin' hotel will probably attract red mason bees, which – unlike honeybees and bumblebees – live on their own instead of with others in a hive.



This loner bee will love your hotel!

**2** Sadly, around 25% of our native bees are now endangered, because 98% of the flower-rich habitats in the UK have been lost to farmland, so the bees have nowhere to live and little to eat.



**3** Red mason bees live in holes like the ones in bamboo. These bees don't make honey or bees' wax so they're great for the garden, as they won't think you're after their honey and sting you!

The red mason bees feel right at home in bamboo

**4** Bees now have to rely more and more on our gardens to provide them with food and shelter. You can help them by planting wild flowers, like heather, cornflower and lavender.



**5** Bees have a huge effect on the environment, as they pollinate (spread the pollen) plants and flowers, allowing them to bloom and reproduce. Without bees, we wouldn't have any fruit or vegetables to eat!



We wouldn't survive without our busy bees