How to fill your Bug Hotel

Ladybirds hibernate in the nooks and crannies in dead wood. As dead wood is rare in our gardens, a quick and easy way to make this habitat is by taking logs and drilling lots of holes into them – perfect for ladybirds.

The solitary bee is a loner. Instead of working with other bees to raise huge numbers of offspring in hives, it makes single nest cells. Use hollow sticks like bamboo or a block of wood with holes drilled in it to make a Solitary Bee Room.

Put stones and loose bark at the base of your Bug Hotel. That will provide a good place to live for beetles, spiders, centipedes and woodlice to live.

If you roll up a piece of corrugated cardboard and put it in a waterproofed cylinder, you can make a great home for lacewings. They will return the favour and eat garden pests who might eat your flowers and vegetables!

Dry leaves in a bug hotel mimic the leaf litter on the forest floor. They offer homes for a variety of invertebrates such as centipedes, spiders or beetles.

Invertebrates also like to burrow into straw and hay. These natural produce provide for example earwigs and woodlice a warm and safe place for hibernation.

Butterflies are cold-blooded and cannot survive cold weather in an active state, so they hibernate during the winter. You can use bunched twigs in your bug hotel to provide them a place to hibernate.

For more information on the Rediscovery Centre
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