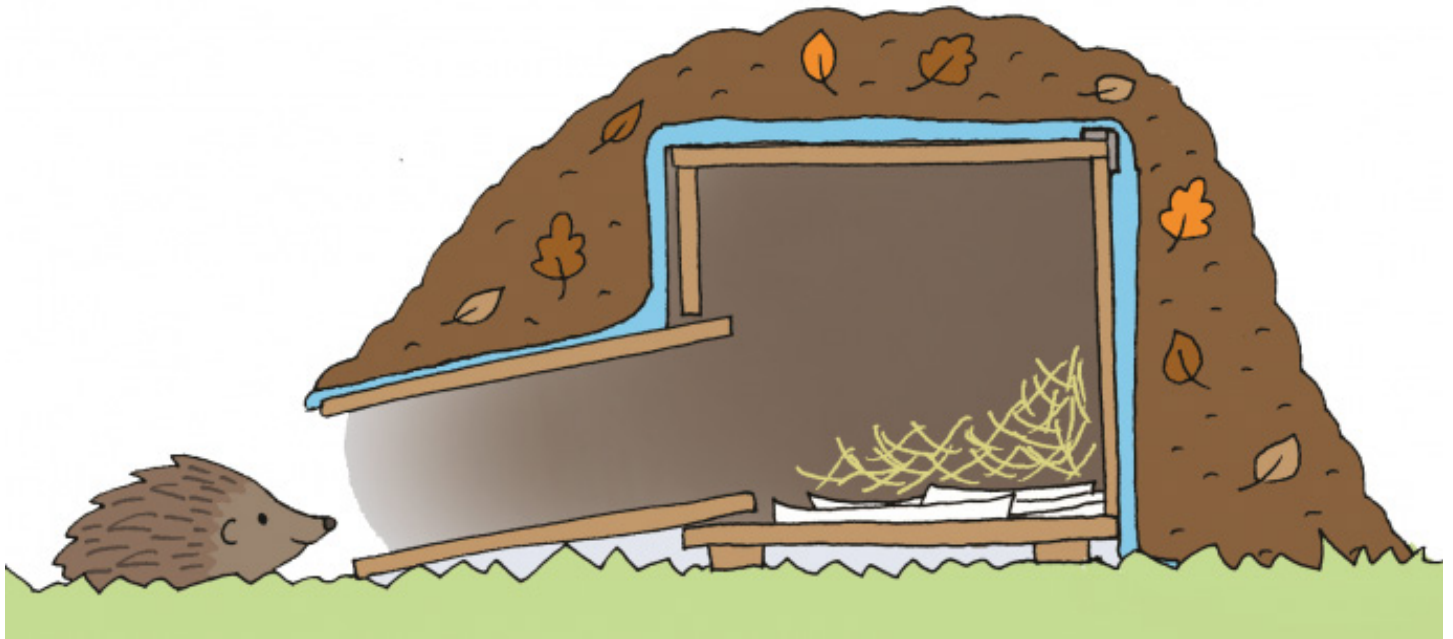


Help A Hedgehog Pack

Build a home for hedgehogs

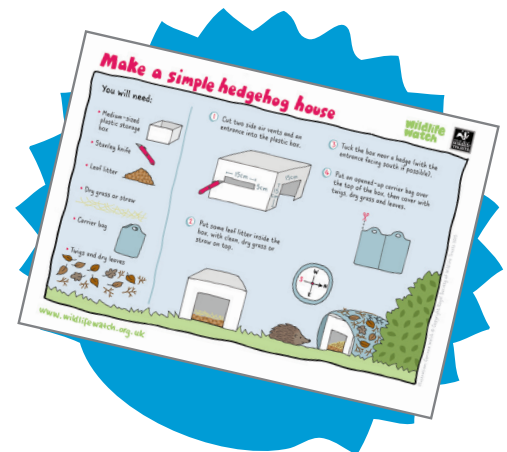


Make a deluxe hedgehog house

Hedgehog numbers are declining rapidly in the UK. Since 2002, we have lost around 30% of our hedgehog population and they are becoming increasingly reliant on urban and suburban gardens. This decline is likely caused by the loss and degradation of habitats due to pressures such as development or agricultural and climate change.

Hedgehogs need homes just like humans, so making one for them is a great way to encourage them into your garden. Whether you live in a town or the countryside, you can help by providing food, water and shelter.

This simple guide will have you welcoming and helping spiny visitors in no time at all.



Something simpler?

Check your pack for a guide on how to make a simple hedgehog house.

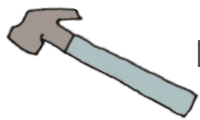


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Build a home for hedgehogs



You will need:



Hammer



Nails



Clean straw or dry grass



Metal hinges



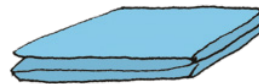
Newspapers



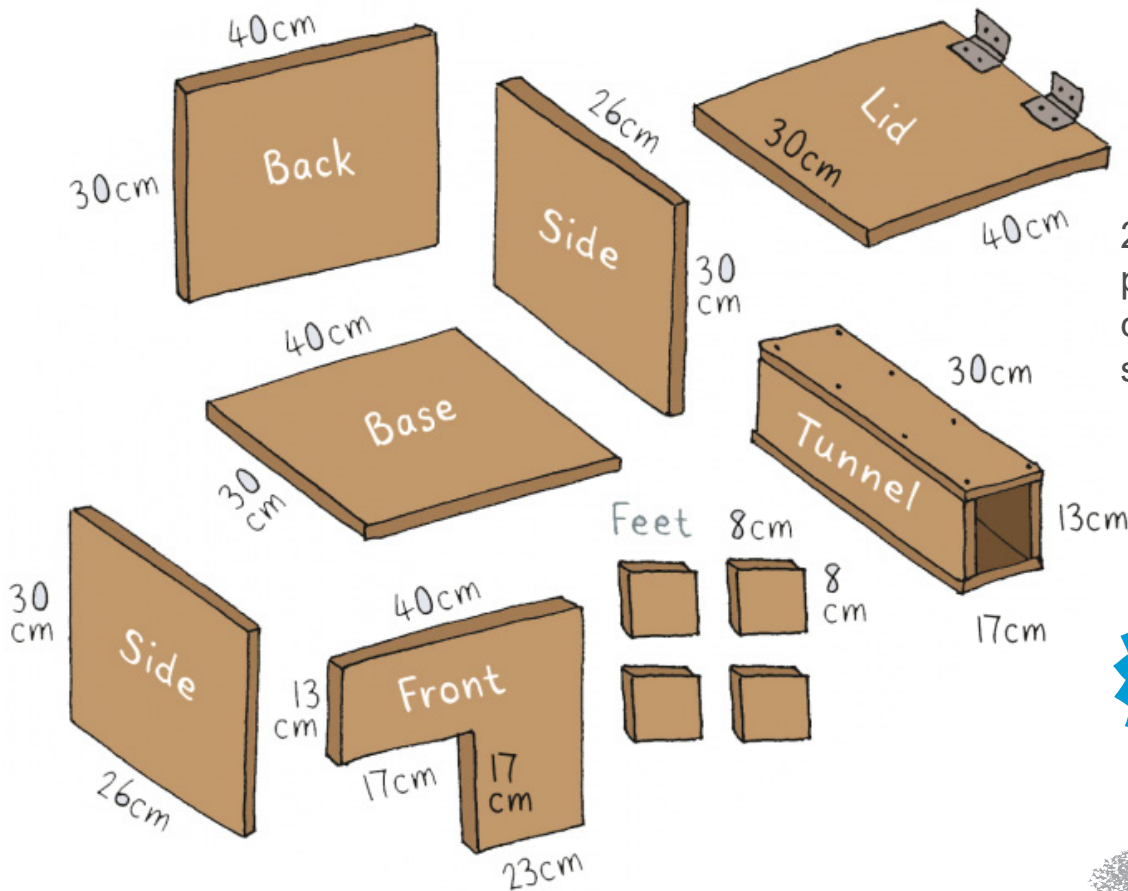
Soil



Dry leaves



Polythene sheeting



20mm FSC plywood boards, cut to the sizes shown here

Don't paint or treat the wood!



Help A Hedgehog Pack

Build a home for hedgehogs



Step 1

Cut your timber to the dimensions shown on the previous page.

Assemble the tunnel and main chamber separately; attaching the feet and the hinge flap before putting the box together will make things a little easier.

Don't be tempted to skip the tunnel – having it means that predators won't be able to swipe their paws inside! The tunnel will be slightly shorter than the height of the opening so that it can be slotted in at an angle, making a ramp.

You can also drill a hole that will fit a hosepipe into the back of the box to add some extra ventilation.

Step 2

Pick a shady, quiet spot to put your assembled hedgehog house. Lift the lid off the house, and arrange the newspaper, leaves and dry grass inside. Don't worry too much, hedgehogs will soon make their own home improvements.

Step 3

Cover with polythene sheeting (making sure it's still accessible for cleaning later on), and pack soil and dead leaves around the outside, leaving the entrance and air pipe free of debris.



Keep it clean and pile it up

Clear out the hedgehog house once a year (late March – early April) to prevent the build-up of pests. Carefully check it's empty first.

Making a log pile or compost heap are also good options for providing space for hedgehogs to nest, and have the added bonus of attracting lots of insects for them to eat!

