

Constructing a Native Bee Nest

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Materials you will need:

4×8(depth) inch block of untreated wood. Pine is best, but any type works.

Drill with various sized drill bits (1/8", 3/16", 1/4", and 3/8")

Nails

Wire (if tying your condo around a branch or tree)

To construct your bee nest:

Cut an angle at the top of the block because you will be putting a small roof on your bee house (see picture below). You can use a thinner piece of wood for the roof. Nail the roof on the top of the block making sure that the roof is long enough to protect the nest from rain and sun.

To make the actual cavities you can either use the same hole size for the entire block or you can use several different hole sizes to get different bees nesting in the same block. I tend to go for the second choice. You can use 1/8", 3/16", 1/4", and 3/8" hole sizes. Take your pick.

Drill holes about 3 inches deep for the small (1/8", 3/16") diameter and about 6 inches deep for the larger (1/4", 3/8") diameters, either in rows or in any pattern you would like. The bees are not that picky, as long as the holes are deep enough.

Drill a hole through the back (width), one near the top & bottom (to loop wire through so you can hang your nest) or drill one hole in the back center to hang the nest on a nail. The best place to hang the bee nest is near flowers or trees. Just nail it about 5-15 feet above the ground on a post, tree, or somewhere on the side of your house. Just make sure the nest is stable and does not move in the wind.

Hang your nest somewhere facing south, the bees like sunny places. Decorate the outside if you like!

*****These will attract non-aggressive native bees (NOT honeybees)*****

