## Give a 'hog a home







Hedgehogs make hibernation nests in winter called

'hibernacula' – these can be under hedgerows, fallen logs or in areas of scrub like bramble. They are durable, insulated and help maintain humidity to prevent dehydration for the sleeping 'hog. They also make simpler day time nests for resting, sleeping, breeding and rearing young in over summer.

Your garden can provide lots of great nesting spots for 'hogs - under your shed, in compost heaps, shrubs, under leaf piles or under logs or spare building materials. But, sometimes hedgehogs need a helping hand. You can buy prebuilt hedgehog houses online or in stores, or have a go at making your own - homemade houses tend to be more popular with our prickly visitors.

It's best to clean my
house in March/April when
I've finished hibernating and
left. But please make sure it's
before the breeding season as
disturbing a mother can cause
her to abandon
her hoglets.

Any straw
or dry leaves
left outside will
likely be taken
in and used for
bedding.

## The simple DIY Hedgehog House

Take a spare plastic storage box, planter or milk crate (make sure it has holes) and flip it upside down.

Make an entrance that's 13cm x 13cm and provide some bedding like dry leaves or pet straw. You can cover the rest of the box with leaves/soil/grass cuttings.

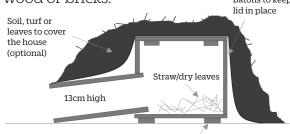


Houses are
best placed in
sheltered locations,
along boundaries, in back
gardens and within 5m of
the house. The presence of
pets or predators doesn't
appear to put off a local
hedgehog from
moving in.

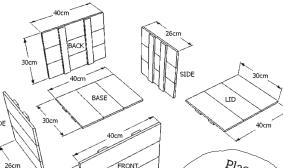
## The tricky DIY Hedgehog House

Hedgehogs seem to love home-made houses made from <u>untreated</u> wood (ideally durable UK softwood species like larch, Douglas fir and red cedar). Don't nail the roof down (so that you can clean inside) and avoid using paint. Tunnels help stop predators or cats getting into the house and can be made of wood or bricks.

Batons to keep



Batons to raise box slightly off ground



Avoid putting
food or water inside
the house, as this can
disturb me, place a
little away from my
house

Place a
twig over the
entrance. If it's
someone is visiting
your 'hog house.