

Make a... hedgehog home

Offer your local hedgehog a safe home in your garden, and throw away your slug pellets as hedgehogs will love to munch your slugs and snails

2. Next:

- Cut a hole about 15cm² in the base of the box. This should be done by someone who is experienced with a jigsaw.
- Drill a hole big enough for the hose to fit into in the other side of the box.
- Put the bedding into the box.
- Attach the battons to the lid with nails or wood glue so that the lid sits snugly on the top of the box. Put the lid on.

2.



3.

1. Get these:

- A wooden box about the size of a wine crate
 - A piece of wood big enough to be a lid
 - 2 wooden battons
 - A hammer and small nails, or wood glue
 - Some old bricks
 - About 30cm of garden hose
 - Bedding: newspaper, shredded paper, earth or sawdust (not hay) – soft things for their feet
 - An old roof tile or piece of slate
 - Optional: some old plastic sheeting
- NB: All the wood should be untreated

Helping hedgehogs in your garden...

- There is evidence that hedgehog numbers are declining drastically across the UK.
- Loss of habitat is a cause, but gardens also hold many threats.
- Slug pellets, which are consumed by slugs and then eaten by hedgehogs, are fatal to hedgehogs.
- Give ponds sloping edges so they can get out; roll up any nets they might get caught in; take care when turning your compost and check fires before lighting.

3. Then:

- Place the box into a wild and quiet area of your garden. The best place is alongside a fence, bank or wall. Make sure the doorway isn't facing north, or the cold wind will get in.
- Put the hose into the hole for ventilation.
- Create a corridor from the large hole using the bricks, it should be about 30cm long. Use the slate or tile as a roof. This will stop foxes getting in.
- You can prolong the home's life by putting it on and under plastic sheeting.
- You can also hide it under dry leaves and soil if you want.

Top hedgehog tips...

- They usually eat insects, slugs and snails at night. If you want to feed them, dog or cat food is the best, not milk and bread as they can't digest it.
- Your box is likely to be used during winter for hibernation and in the breeding season during spring.
- Don't disturb hedgehogs when they're hibernating.

Why not send in a photo of your hedgehog home? For details go to bbc.co.uk/wildaboutyourgarden