

Build your own hedgehog house



You will need:

- Wooden wine crate or make a box out of untreated plywood each face about 60cm by 30 cm
- 1.2m length of 15cm x 2cm untreated timber
- 25mm galvanised nails
- 1m length of hosepipe
- Jig saw, drill and hammer
- 25mm drill bit

Overview



Hedgehogs are declining rapidly and there is a real concern for their welfare. One way you can help is to build them somewhere safe, dry and warm to hibernate over winter. Never build a bonfire and leave it for a few days at this time of year as hedgehogs may choose this as their over winter home.

How

1. Start by making the tunnel for the hedgehog house. Cut the timber into four 30cm lengths and nail them together lengthways.
2. Use a jig saw to cut a hole 11cm x 15cm out of one side of the crate at the base.
3. Attach the tunnel to the crate by nailing it from the inside.
4. Drill a hole in the back of the crate and insert the hose, for ventilation – the hose should be at an angle facing the ground to ensure rain does not collect in the pipe or enter the house. This will ensure that there is good air circulation for your hibernating hedgehog.
5. Fill the crate with dry leaves and replace the lid. Hide the hedgehog house amongst soil and leaves, ensuring the entrance and air pipe are free of debris.
6. Make sure the house is somewhere sheltered and undisturbed.