



FEATURES OF A GOOD BIRDHOUSE

Give a Bird a Home!

Building a birdhouse is a really fun little DIY project to tackle. Learn what it takes to create the perfect birdhouse and get ready to say hello to some feathered friends!

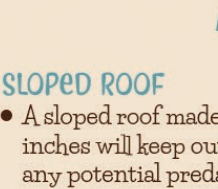
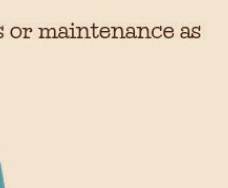
BUILDING THE PERFECT BIRDHOUSE

“ Hear how the birds, on every blooming spray, with joyous music wake the dawning day. *Alexander Pope, English poet* ”

IT'S WELL CONSTRUCTED

UNTREATED WOOD

- Make sure to use untreated, unpainted wood - such as cedar, pine or cypress



GALVANISED SCREWS

- Use galvanised screws to get the best seal. Otherwise nails could loosen over time, allowing rain into the birdhouse.

IT KEEPS BIRDS DRY

SLOPED ROOF

- A sloped roof made to overhang the front by a few inches will keep out the heavy rain and help thwart any potential predators.



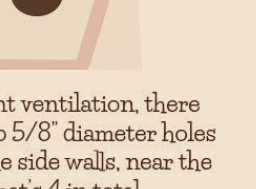
RECESSED FLOOR

- A recessed floor stops the nest from getting wet. Make the recess at least 1/4 inch from the floor.



DRAINAGE HOLES

- Add at least 4 drainage holes to the floor so that any water that does enter can drain away.



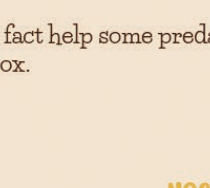
IT HELPS REGULATE TEMPERATURE

THICK WALLS



Walls need to be at the very minimum 3/4" thick to insulate the nest adequately.

VENTILATION HOLES



For sufficient ventilation, there should be two 5/8" diameter holes on each of the side walls, near the top. That's 4 in total.

IT KEEPS OUT PREDATORS

NO PERCHES

A perch isn't needed for birds and can in fact help some predators gain entry to the box.

BEST BIRDHOUSE PROTECTION

COLLAR



A metal collar of around 3" in diameter surrounds the pole underneath the birdhouse.

STOVEPIPE



Generally considered the most effective technique against climbing predators.

NOEL GUARD



A barrier that protrudes inches from the entrance hole, protecting nestlings from intruders.

COMMON BIRDHOUSE PREDATORS

CHIPMUNKS



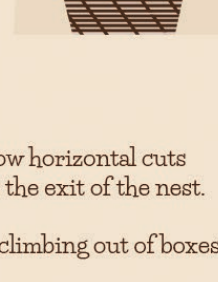
Chipmunks can be a big problem for nests in certain parts of the world.

RACCOONS



Raccoons are intelligent and will remember birdhouse locations. Depending on which part of the world you live, raccoons can be abundant.

CATS

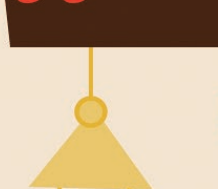


Cats are excellent jumpers and can leap to the top of a birdhouse from a nearby tree.

IT HELPS FLEDGLINGS LEAVE THE NEST

ROUGH INTERIOR WALLS

- The inside wall below the entrance hole should be rough to help nestlings climb out of the box.



INTERIOR GROOVES

- It's also a good idea to have shallow horizontal cuts that function as a small ladder at the exit of the nest.
- Swallows often need a little help climbing out of boxes.

MAKING YOUR GARDEN BIRD FRIENDLY



“ The sound of birds stops the noise in my mind. *Carly Simon, Singer* ”



FEEDER

- Place feeders in your garden so the neighbourhood birds have plenty to eat.
- You should keep them in sight of your windows so you can see the birds when they visit.

SOURCE YOUR SEEDS

- Get your bird food from reputable sources. This ensures that the seeds give birds the required level of energy and have been grown with the environment in mind.
- Experiment with a variety of seeds as different breeds of birds will prefer different types of seeds.



BIRDBATH

- Birds need to drink and clean themselves so birdbaths are great for this.
- Always ensure to keep it topped up with fresh water.

PLANTING

- Create a safe and sustainable habitat for birdlife in your garden.
- Grow a wide variety of plants including fruit trees, evergreens, climbers and spiny shrubs.



LET THEM BUILD THEIR OWN

- It's great if birds use the birdhouse you've built, but it's also really satisfying if they create natural nests in your garden.
- This can be achieved by providing hedges with dense cover so they can build in peace.

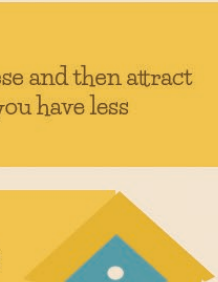


BIRDHOUSE BENEFITS

“ Birds are indicators of the environment. If they are in trouble, we know we'll soon be in trouble. *Roger Tory Peterson, American Naturalist* ”

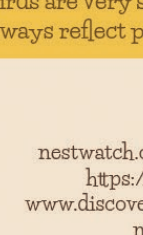
PEST CONTROL

Since birds eat insects they can assist you in eliminating unwanted pests in your garden without having to use harmful pesticides.



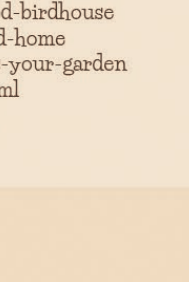
WEED CONTROL

Birds enjoy eating weed seeds, we do not like to weed. A win-win situation for all!



FLOWER POLLINATION

Many birds love nectar from flowers and help to pollinate. As the bee population diminishes, attracting birds who perform this task is sure to help your garden and the environment.



CONSERVATION

Birds love native plants. If you grow these and then attract birds to your garden, you will find that you have less gardening chores to do.

PROPERTY PRICES

- A well-maintained home with greenery that attracts birds has great curb appeal.
- Birds are very sensitive to their environment and will always reflect positively on the area.

REFERENCES

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