



SUSTAINABILITY

*Learn to live
lightly by
focussing on
Sustainability and
knowing more
about your place*

Activity overview

Build a home
for native bees

Equipment required

Wood/stumps/
sticks/bricks/
clay

Drill

Time required

30 mins +

AIR BEE 'N' BEE

Most of Australia's bee species are solitary and don't nest in the typical hive that you see honey bees in. You can encourage these native pollinators to visit your backyard by creating safe spaces for them to nest and roost in.

Before you start:

- Consider the best location for your finished hotel.
 - Protection from the elements is important – bees will naturally seek a sheltered position.
 - It's a good idea to elevate your hotel at least one metre off the ground (but not too high) to keep it out of the way of ants, pets and ground moisture.
 - A nearby food source (flowers), water source, and leaf litter/twigs etc for nesting materials will make your hotel more attractive.
- Have a look around your house and backyard for materials you can repurpose. Bees prefer natural materials.



Get building!

- Find stumps or logs (untreated) - drill holes to face sideways not upwards
- Make small ground nests - tie twigs and bark in a clump - place out of the way of animals.
- 15-20cm lengths of bamboo. Seal one end so they feel safe enough to lay eggs.
- Holes poked into lumps of builders clay then left to dry out
- Cement breezeblocks and bricks with holes in them - seal one side - use a natural material like clay, mud or even mulch or dead leaves.
- Solitary native bees are not completely anti-social. They will live alongside other bees. A wooden box can be filled with a variety of materials like bamboo stems, twigs and leaves. Place the box on its

Source: <https://www.backyardbuddies.org.au/create-habitats/home-diy-projects>

This information is not for sale. It is for educational purposes only.

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