

How to make your own bee house with materials you may already have!

Allison Collin's Certified Pollinator Garden is buzzing for miles beyond her yard as it attracts all kind of pollinators, including mason bees and leafcutters! Amongst her garden she has a beautiful yet simple cut wood round that her husband, Harry, made for the mason and leafcutter bees that help pollinate their garden each spring and summer.

They've decided to share with us this easy and creative way to make a bee house for your pollinator garden and support the native bees that visit or choose to reside there!

*Before you create your bee house from materials you have not yet used, please research thoroughly. Some materials such as bamboo have been known to harbor bacteria or pests if not in good condition.

Materials:

- 2x4 wood or wood round 4 or more inches thick **it is important that your wood is untreated*
- Drill – this could be anything you have from a hand drill, power drill, or radial drilling machine
- Sturdy twine or cord (if you choose to make a hanging style bee house)
- Mounting materials

Harry helped us out with some demonstration photos to make for some inspiration and ideas!



1. Here he uses a drilling machine to drill cavities for the bees in a 2x4 piece—something that is probably more commonly found around your house! He drills holes into the narrow side so the cavities for the bees to next in can be as deep as possible. Try not to make your holes too shallow—the bees will get cold!



2. Here he is using a power hand drill. Keep in mind that not all native bees that nest this way are the same size. One size does NOT fit all! So change your drill bit to have two or three varieties in your cavity size.



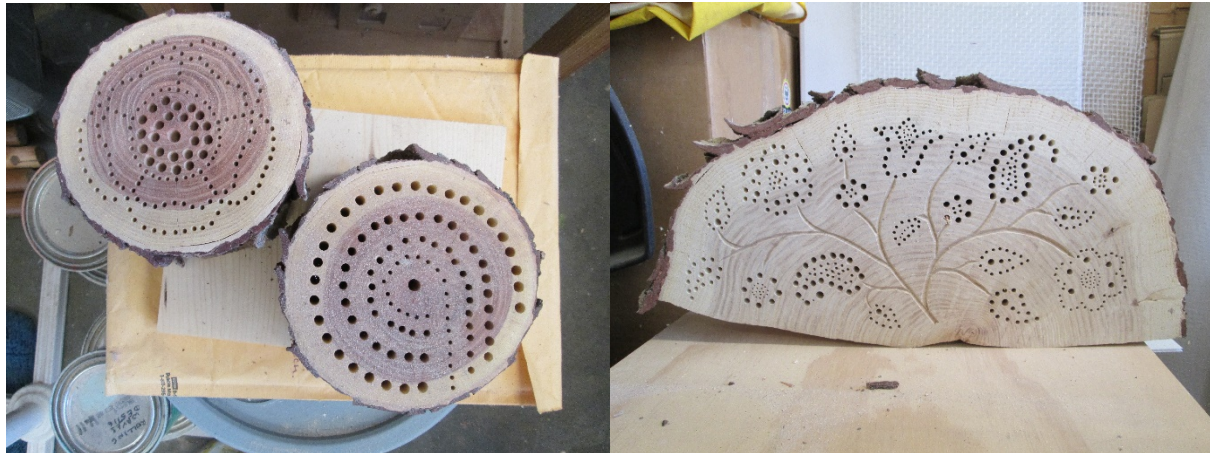
3. It may take a little longer, but don't let that stop you. If you only have access to a hand drill, that works too!



4. Here are the finished pieces with different sized holes. In the middle of each block, Harry drilled a hole through the 2x4 block perpendicular to the bee cavities. This will be for twine to string the separate block together and create a nice necklace-like design to hang.



5. Added in between each 2x4 piece is a small piece of wood for design. The twine is being anchored by a small wooden toggle at the bottom block. Be creative!



6. Here are other ideas you could try. Think about what type of materials you have and what type of designs you want to create and display in your garden. While this house is for the bees, you can have fun making it beautiful too!

Tips for hanging:

- Hang or place close to your garden or where you'd like the bees to be located in proximity to.
- Hang or place high above the ground. This is mainly so lizards and other animals cannot reach the bees once nesting, and also children.

Keep an eye on who is moving in! If you see nothing happening after a while, ask: are your holes too shallow? Too small? Too big? Is it placed in a good area?