

hedgehog shack

We love hedgehogs – they're so cute with their snuffling snouts and prickly coats. But have you ever seen a hedgehog in the wild?

If not, it might be because our hedgehog friends are in trouble. There are only a million hedgehogs left in the wild. That might seem like a lot, but there used to be lots more. Sadly, hedgehogs are running out of places to live, and can get hurt on busy roads or by chemicals used in farming.

We can all make a difference by attracting them to our gardens or local parks, so why not build a Hedgehog Shack where they can hibernate in winter?

STEP 1 Cut a hedgehog-sized door in one side of your cardboard box (about 15cm across). Remember to ask an adult to help you with the scissors!

STEP 2 Now it's time to create some windows so the hedgehogs can breathe. They like the dark, so you'll want to keep your windows small! Cut two windows about 15cm by 5cm in your box.

STEP 3 Line the bottom of your box with torn newspaper, then place some dry grass or straw on top. Now any hedgehog visitors will have somewhere comfy to sleep!

STEP 4 Your Hedgehog Shack is nearly ready – it just needs a roof. Fasten the top of the cardboard box with several layers of sticky tape.

STEP 5 Place your Hedgehog Shack somewhere it won't be disturbed, making sure the door faces away from the cold northerly winds. Cover the roof with plastic sheeting big enough for the edges to touch the ground and weigh the edges of the sheeting down with a few large stones to stop it blowing away. This will help make your hedgehog shack waterproof.

STEP 6 Camouflage your Hedgehog Shack so it blends in with the bushes and trees. Find some sticks, leaves and dry grass and prop the sticks against the side of your shack. Then place the leaves and dry grass over the top. Try your best to cover it as much as you can!

Shack checklist



- ☐ Large cardboard box at least 45cm x 45cm in size
- ☐ Plastic sheeting at least 1.5m in diameter
- ☐ Sticky tape
- ☐ Scissors

Don't forget...

Hopefully your Hedgehog Shack will now give a hedgehog a dry and comfy home to hibernate in over the winter. Because it's made of cardboard, your shack will only last one winter, so be sure to replace it next summer!

? Did you know?

A hedgehog's 'coat' has around 6,000 spines. They also have soft grey fur on their tummies.

