

# CREATE A BEE HOME FOR NEW BUMBLEBEE FAMILIES!



Bee homes are a nesting site for bumblebees who live in colonies. Usually a bumblebee colony will have between 50–70 bees. Bee homes are known to be less effective than bee condos, as all conditions must be ideal for a queen to choose your bee home. If it doesn't look like a deserted rodent's nest, the queen will most likely keep looking!

## WHAT YOU NEED TO BUILD YOUR BEE HOME:

- Hamster bedding, grass clippings, dry moss, or something similar
- A Shovel
- A box or piece of strong wood

## WHERE TO PUT YOUR BEE HOME:

- It is best if in a south-facing bank, however anywhere that is more sheltered will work
- It should be in full or partial shade, if it is in the sun, there is a chance the larvae will cook
- The opening of the box should be facing the south sun
- It is beneficial if it can be next to a shed, fence or somewhere that is protected from the wind
- The bees like to be in close proximity to blooming flowers or herbs



## WHEN TO BUILD YOUR BEE HOME:

- The sooner the better, as soon as the frost has melted and the ground is no longer frozen, bees will start to look for nests

## HOW TO CONSTRUCT YOUR BEE BOX:

- Dig into the ground, about 20 cm deep
- Place hamster bedding or material you've chosen in the hole. Make sure it is evenly laid out
- Dig a very small (no bigger than 2 cm) entrance to the hole, south facing is the best spot for the entrance.
- Dig a few small hole on the opposite side (no bigger than 10 mm) so oxygen can flow into the box.
- Put box or wood over the hole, making sure the hole is smaller or the same size as the wood so there aren't any exposed areas.
- Wait for the bees to come!

