

Hedgehog Sleeping Areas / Nest Boxes

Build or provide a wooden hedgehog house (good quality, predator proof houses can be bought) for sleeping or nesting.

I highly recommend those made by Riverside Woodcraft who have just recently (January 2023) sadly ceased trading, however their range of hedgehog houses can still be purchased at [Spring Garden & Home](#) The house aren't the cheapest, but they are perfect dimensions, and will last.

If you'd like to have a go at making your own, there are diagrams and dimensions on the [Wildlife Trusts](#) web site.

Top tips

- Fill the home with dust extracted meadow hay. Straw can be sharp causing injury or can get wrapped around their legs. Hedgehogs are also likely to drag leaves and grass into the box to make themselves comfortable.
- Place sleeping boxes in a quiet shaded position in your garden with an entrance hole out of the weather (ideally facing East to South).
- Never be tempted to peek in the house – if disturbed, nesting females can abandon their hoglets.
- Cleaning is advised only in April (before nesting) or October (before hibernation) but should only be done if they are empty (using a twig or leaf across the entrance will show any movement into or out of the box). **Remember, their nests in the wild do not get cleaned out!**
- Never use chemical wood preserver or disinfectants. If it needs to be cleaned out, remove all old bedding and using hot water only – give it a good scrub. Leave it to completely dry before adding new bedding.
- Do not use creosote or use a solvent/oil-based preservative on any house because the fumes are toxic.

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