

SOLITARY BEE HABITAT

Bee nice to your neighbors

INSTRUCTIONS

Multi-lingual instructions available at: www.beetleandbee.com



TIP: Read the instructions thoroughly before starting your project.

Hi, Humans!

Did you know that not all bees live in hives?

Honey bees live in hives to help protect baby bees & the honey they produce to feed the baebees. Solitary bees, like Mason bees, don't produce honey, so they don't need to live in hives. This also means that they're generally less aggressive since they don't have a hive to protect. Solitary bees like to make their home in small holes found in places like downed logs. The best locations are close to their food source-flowers!

This Solitary Bee Habitat was made so the Mason bees that are native to North America have a safe place to sleep & lay their larvae. The bees can crawl into the cells & lay their eggs, then seal them up with mud or leaves to provide protection.

IN EARLY SPRING

Pick a location for your bee habitat. Here are some tips for choosing a spot...

- Bees like to have their food nearby, so pick a spot close to flowers (ideally within 300ft)
- Mud is necessary for bees to close up the cells.
 Make sure there's a mud source close to the habitat, but not too close, so the brand new bees don't get stuck when they emerge.
- Whether the weather be cold or hot, your bees will most appreciate a spot that receives some warm morning sunlight but still protected from the harshest spring rains.

IN EARLY FALL

Protect your baebees from the elements. Here are some options...

- Take the bee habitat apart & store the bee cocoons in a box in a cool dry place like a garage, or shed.
- If you don't want to take the bee habitat apart (bug babies aren't for everyone) store the habitat in a cool dry place away from the harsh winter weather.

AFTER THE LAST FROST HAS PASSED

In the following spring when the weather has warmed to 55°F or more every day, it's time to release your cocoons!

- Place your bee cocoons outside for them to hatch; close to your habitat so they are more likely to live there too. Careful, don't leave the cocoons in too harsh sunlight!
- After the bees have left, take apart & clean your bee habitat to reuse in the following season. Solitary bees may not look like regular bees, some look more like flies. You can typically tell them apart by their wings.

