

Siting, cleaning and caring for your hedgehog house



Siting

Hedgehogs hibernate in autumn choosing sites under hedges and log or scrub piles. In your garden they may also choose a compost heap or under a shed. Nests are made from leaves, grass, straw, bracken, reeds etc. Hedgehog houses are popular and help encourage hedgehogs to reside in your garden with security. Like the hedgehog you should choose a quiet spot against a fence, wall or bank. An "overgrown" area is good for providing cover as the hedgehog ventures out to forage. Avoid places exposed to the wildest weather. You may cover the house with a plastic sheet, earth and sticks for a more natural look but be careful not to block the vent gap at the back.

Cleaning

Cleaning should take place late March or early April. Before cleaning you can check for occupancy by placing a small light object in the entrance to see if it is moved overnight. The top of the house can be unscrewed and removed for easy cleaning, perhaps best done in situ just in case there is a hedgehog resident. To prevent the spread of fleas, parasites and disease, cleaning out with a brush, leaving the opened box in direct sunlight will help the UV rays to perform a naturally antiseptic function. Please do not use cleaning products, chemicals, insecticides or flea treatments.

Maintaining your house

If you wish you may apply a coat of boiled linseed oil to the outside using a clean decorating brush or cloth. This has been done at manufacture and helps feed the wood as well as creating a water resistant coating. This protection helps with longevity of the house.

Ethos

This product has been designed to have minimal environmental impact with virtually no waste products.

What has been recycled? Where possible all the wood, metal, plastic or other materials used are recycled and would have gone to landfill or been burnt.

What has not been recycled? Nails, screws and glue where used.