

activity sheet

3

NATURALLY NIFTY NEST-BOXES

(and how to build them)

Before you start, make a plan to notice which small birds currently visit your garden and think about who might make best use of your nest box.

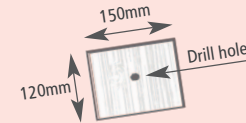
WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Rough weatherproof wood 15 mm thick, 150 mm wide and about 1350 mm long.
- Hammer and galvanised nails.
- Piece of old rubber or leather approx. 150mm x 230mm
- Hole drilling drillbits.
- Catch to open and close the lid.
- Wire or nylon to attach to a tree or wall.

Let's help more birds survive by building homes for them!

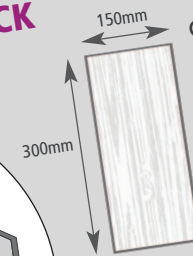


1 BASE

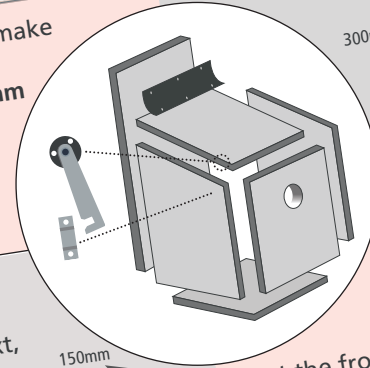


Cut the bottom first make it an oblong shape: **150mm wide x 120mm deep**. Drill a small drainage hole to stop the nest getting damp.

2 BACK

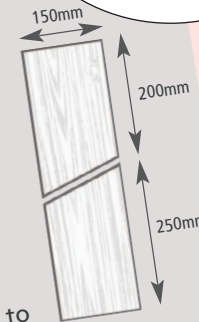


Cut the back next, make it an oblong shape: **150mm wide and 300mm high**. Nail the back to the base.



3 SIDES

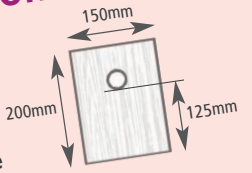
Cut the side pieces next, make them a slanted shape: **150mm across bottom, 200mm up the front side and 250mm up the back**.



Use the same dimensions to cut the other side. Nail both sides to the base and the back.

Attach the catch eye to one side near the top.

4 FRONT

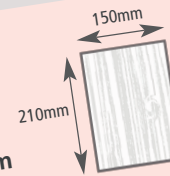


Cut the front next, make it an oblong shape: **150mm wide and 200mm high**.

Drill an entrance hole **125mm** from the floor - **25 mm** for blue tits, coal tits and marsh tits; **28 mm** for tree sparrows and great tits; **32 mm** for house sparrows and nuthatches. Nail the front to the base and sides.

5 ROOF

Cut the roof next, make it an oblong shape: **150mm wide and 210mm high**.



Place the roof on top and nail the rubber to both the roof and the back (a hinge so the roof can open and close). Attach the catch hook to the roof (to line up with the eye that you nailed to the side).

6 LOCATION

Affix your box (using nylon ties or wire for trees) approx. **2-4 metres** up a tree or wall without obstructions in front (for a clear flight path).

Adjust the ties or wire as the tree grows.

Avoid direct sunlight and face the box towards the north and east.



Birds will investigate nest boxes in February or March. Keep an eye to see if birds are visiting. **Don't ever touch eggs or disturb a nestbox**, as birds are easily spooked and may abandon them! Boxes can be cleaned out in Autumn after nesting birds have left.

happy building!

*Source RSPB

Parc Rhanbarthol
y Cymoedd



Valleys
Regional Park



Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop
European Social Fund



Llywodraeth Cymru
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