

# Get busy and make a Bee Hotel!

You will need:

- large (2ltr) plastic bottle, black and yellow acrylic paint, twine, hollow stems or bamboo stems (10 - 15 cm long), scissors, skewer, modelling clay and a grown up to help (especially with the cutting and making the holes).



Carefully cut your bottle at both ends. It should be slightly longer than the stems.



Paint the stripes. Use masking tape if you want clean lines.



Use a skewer to make two holes. Then thread the twine.



Fill the bottle with stems. You can also use twigs and reeds to ensure it's packed really tightly and is secure.



Use the clay to block one end of the stems. This makes the hotel nice and cosy for the bees.



Hang outside in springtime, in full sun.



Cavity-nesting solitary bees nest in Bee Hotels. To prevent the hotel from going moldy, try to keep it dry. In colder months, move the nest to somewhere dry and unheated - like a garden shed. Then return outside in spring. You will be able to see if new bees have left the hotel in springtime as any mud covering the hollow stem will have opened up.