

Making an Insect Hibernation House.

These are simple and cheap to make and can be produced in a range of sizes. The basic concept is to produce a number of dry warm chambers insects such as Ladybirds, Lacewings, some bees and solitary wasps can use to lay eggs, find shelter from predators or weather and hibernate through the winter. These chambers are provided by hollow stems or tubes grouped tightly together. The hollow stems can be made from Straw, Buddleia or any other straight hollow stem. Other but perhaps more expensive material would be Garden Bamboo canes. At their most basic these could be bundled together and tied with garden twine before hanging up under cover. The other extreme is to make use of the plank bird box design leaving the front face off and then packing the box with the stems facing out. This could be hung up as a bird box in a tree or attached to a building. What we are going to describe here however is a middle way.

Website Link: www.kendall-bioresearch.co.uk/feature.htm

You will need.

Number of hollow stems.

Modelling Clay.

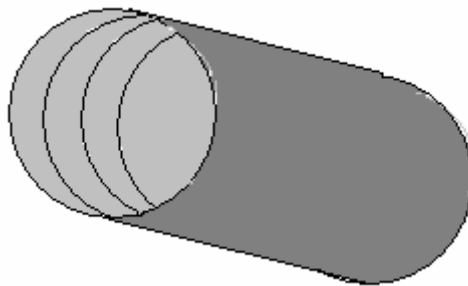
Tin Can (ask an adult to remove all sharp edges) or Plastic Bottle (ask an adult to cut off the neck to form a cup).

Poster Paints Brushes.

PVA Glue.

Garden Twine.

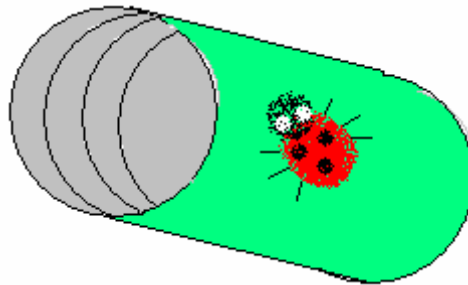
Remove any labels from the out side of the tin or bottle.



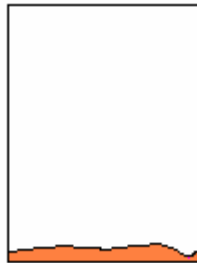
Cut the stems to a length so that they are the same length as your tin or cut down bottle.



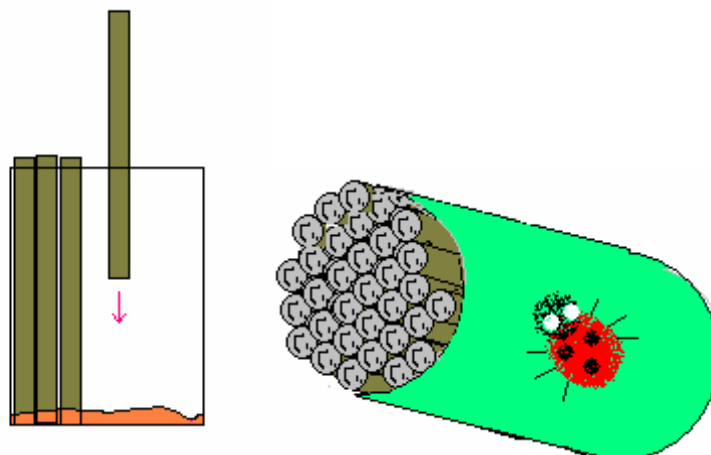
You may like to paint up the outside of your container to remind yourself which one you made. Use poster paints mixed with PVA glue to help the colour stick



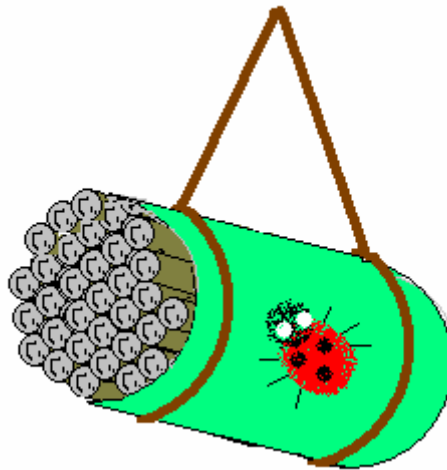
Place a layer of modelling clay over the inside base of the tin
(This helps hold the stems in place as you pack them in).



Push the end of each stem into the modelling clay and pack the stems tightly to fill the container



Tie a length of Garden Twine around the Tin leaving a loop to allow the tin to be hung up.



Hang your insect house with the tubes pointing down to let moisture out in a warm sunny position near vegetation..

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