

# How to make a bird box.

## What you will need:

- A plank of FSC wood 15cm x 1.4m long x 1.5-1.8cm thick and not pressure treated
- Pencil and tape measure
- Saw
- Nails
- Strip of waterproof rubber (for example an old bike inner tube)
- Drill
- Optional: a hole saw/cutter, a jigsaw or a coping saw for cutting the 3.2cm entrance hole
- Ladder
- Screws
- Water based paint or colouring pencils

## Step 1.

Using the diagram bellow, measure and mark each section of the bird box on the plank of wood. Make a note of which piece is which e.g. front, side, back

**N.B:** If you don't have a hole cutter, jig saw or coping saw, cut the front to 150mm (15cm) shown on the diagram as a red line.

## Step 2

Using a saw, cut out each of the sections on the line you have marked.

**Please ensure adult supervision when using sharp tools, nails and screws.**

### Step 3

If you are building a box with an entrance hole, use either a hole cutter, jig saw or coping saw to carefully cut out a 3.2cm hole in the front section. The entrance hole should be 15cm from the bottom and central.

If you are using a jig saw or a coping saw, you will need to mark the hole first. Drill a hole on the edge of the marked circle. You can then insert the jig saw or coping saw into the drilled hole and cut out the entrance.

### Step 4

Using an 8mm drill bit, drill 5 holes in the base of the bird box. These holes will allow drainage and airflow in the box.

### Step 5

Screw or nail the sides, back and front around the base. If you are using screws you may need to drill some pilot holes first so the wood doesn't split when you put the screws in.

When putting the sections together, be careful that the screws/nails miss each other when you put them in.

### Step 6

Nail the rubber strip to the lid, leaving half of it overhanging the end. The strip will act as a hinge to allow you to lift the lid to clean the box out every year. It will also stop rain water getting into the box.

**N.B. If your nails are too long and poke through the bottom, you may need to use a junior hacksaw and metal file to remove the point of the nail that sticks through.**

### Step 7

Position the lid into place, and nail the rest of the strip to the back board.

**N.B. If your nails are too long and poke through the bottom, you may need to use a junior hacksaw and metal file to remove the point of the nail that sticks through.**

## Step 8

Using a water based paint, or colouring pencils, decorate your bird box.

## Step 9

Find a suitable tree to put your bird box in. The tree should be nice and tall, with plenty of other plants nearby for the birds to search for food.

Using a set of ladders, place your box around 3 meters of the floor to protect the nesting birds from cats and foxes. It should face between North and East so the box doesn't get too hot or wet. Avoid putting it in direct sunlight, or near a main, well used path – nesting birds like their privacy!!

## Step 10

Keep a close watch on your bird box to see what type of bird decides to use it. They may not use it this year, so keep checking every spring and summer. And remember to share your creations with us:

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@Cliffehouse

Instagram:

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