

Hedgehog Homes

The best way to provide a nesting option for hedgehogs is by creating a natural feature, such as a compost heap or log pile, as this has the added benefit of encouraging insect prey too. Artificial hedgehog houses (or hibernacula) are also used by hedgehogs and can be really fun to make.

If you leave a messy patch in a quiet undisturbed area of your garden then hedgehogs might make their own nest there either to hibernate in or to rear their young. However, if you want to improve your chances of having a resident hedgehog you could either buy or make them a home. – (*Hedgehog Street*)



Some top tips:

- When siting the box choose a shady, quiet area of your garden.
- If the box lacks a tunnel entrance, try to include an interior tunnel or dividing wall to prevent predators such as badgers or foxes from getting to the hedgehog with their paws.
- Hedgehog Street recommend using untreated wood for hedgehog homes.
- It can be useful to leave a bunch of dry straw or dead leaves nearby a potential house to attract a visitor to use it for nest building.
- Place your house along a linear feature of the garden, as hedgehogs travel along garden boundaries and will be more likely to happen upon the house.



Make a deluxe hedgehog house

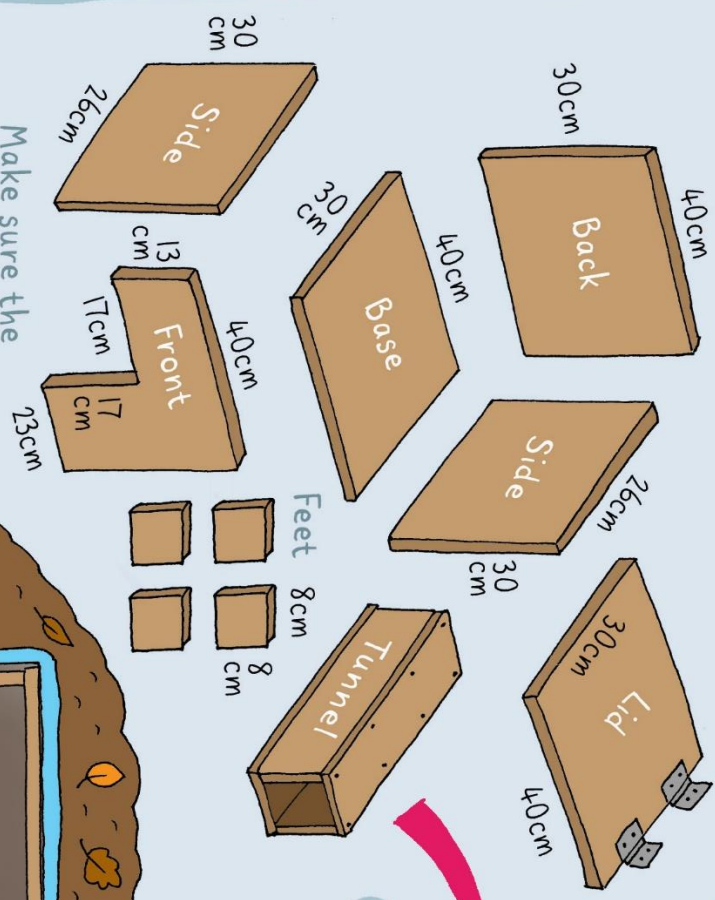
You will need

- 20mm FSC plywood boards cut to the sizes shown
- Hammer and nails
- 2 metal hinges
- Soil
- Dry leaves
- Straw or dry grass
- Newspapers
- Polythene sheeting

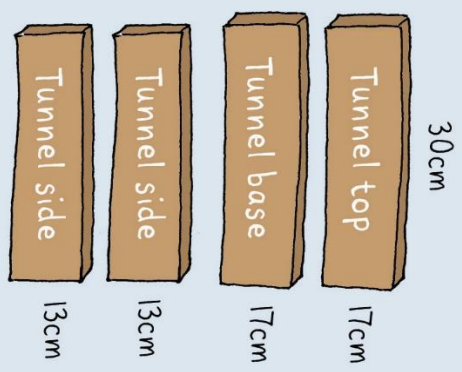
Birch is ideal

Do not creosote or treat the wood

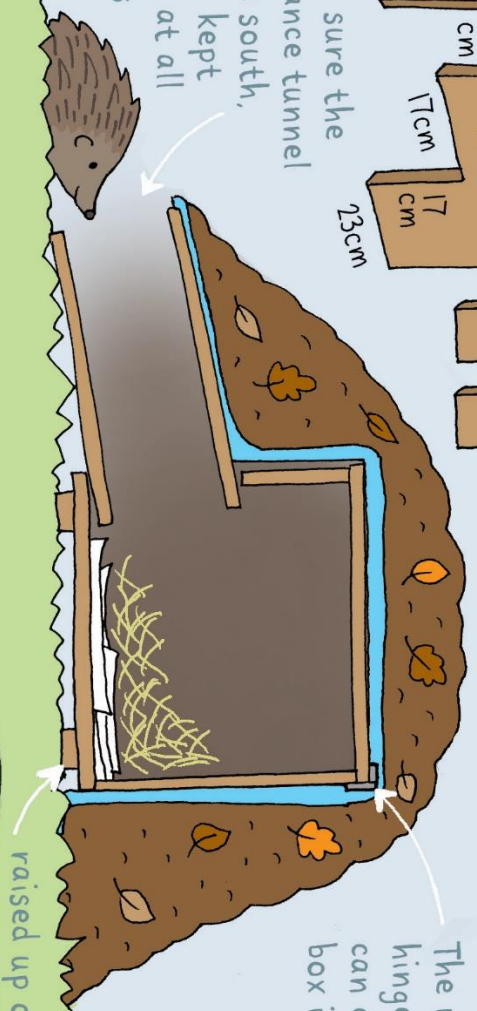
1 Construct the hedgehog house from the following diagram and dimensions.



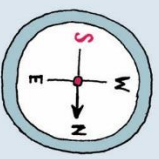
2 Put the newspaper and straw or dry grass inside, cover the house with polythene sheeting, then pack soil and dead leaves around the outside.



Make sure the entrance tunnel faces south, and is kept clear at all times



raised up on feet



The roof is hinged so you can clean the box in future