

## Making a solitary bee home

Gather supplies:

- Container (a 6" plastic pot, coffee carton, oatmeal container)
- Modeling clay
- Parchment paper (for cooking)
- Pencil
- Scotch tape
- Scissors
- Hollow canes, sticks
- Wool yarn
- Duct tape

Remember that most solitary bees like a home about 6" deep. If using an oatmeal container, cut it down a bit so it's not too big for them.

Tape the holes in the bottom of the garden pot (if using).

Decorate the container! Use paint or paper and glue or Whatever you would like to make this a lovely home for your bees.

Apply a layer of clay to the bottom of the container, to both provide a "back door" and to hold the tubes or canes in place.

Cut the parchment to 6" widths. Cut each piece in half. That will be plenty of material to make a tube. Roll each piece around a pencil and secure with tape. Remember to remove the pencil! Tape may not stick to the parchment paper so cut long enough for it go around and stick to itself.

Fill the container with paper tubes or hollow canes or sticks. If using sticks, the bees will nest between them in the spaces.

Use the yarn, or other insulating material, to fill the space between the tubes and the container. This will provide a bit more warmth for the bees in the winter.

Find a suitable location and install your bee home. The bees will prefer an east facing location, about 3-4 feet off the ground. There are additional facts about creating a perfect home for your bees. Look for those in this unit.

Enjoy!! When you capture some photos of "your bees", please remember to share them with us!