How to Build Mason Bee Homes

Before building a mason bee home, it is important to know that improper care of the home can do more damage than good. If the homes aren’t cared for properly, they can become breeding grounds for pests, mold, fungus, and diseases that can kill more mason bees than it saves. One of the biggest things to avoid is moisture. Make sure you put the home in a dry place. The house shouldn’t be hung loosely, but rather secured somewhere 5-6 feet off the ground. This prevents the house from being jolted around which can damage the larvae. It also helps the bees ability to land in the home when it stays in one place.

Building a bee home isn’t a one-time craft and forget project. Regular care of the home is also important and involves storing the larvae-filled nests that the bees make inside the bee houses safely for the winter, cleaning and sanitizing the nests after the larvae have grown and left in the spring, and cycling out the breathable woods and paper straws regularly to make sure they aren’t harboring parasites or bacteria.

When it comes to bee homes, the smaller the better. Mason bees are solitary bees and aren’t used to living crowded together in a bee apartment complex. Too many bees in one place can also be very inviting to predators like woodpeckers.

Although this may sound like more work than you bargained for when you clicked “how to build mason bee homes”, these habitats can be great for inviting pollinators to your yard as well as amazing learning opportunities for children and adults alike.

The following websites are great resources for building and caring for your mason bee home:

Everything you need to know before keeping mason bees:
hhttps://beebuilt.com/blogs/backyard-beekeeping-blog/everything-you-need-to-know-before-keeping-mason-bees

Guide to building and managing a mason bee hotel:
hhttps://colinpurrington.com/2019/05/guide-to-diy-mason-bee-houses/

How to make a solitary bee box:

A List of Reputable Companies if You Decide You Just Want to Buy one:
hhttps://colinpurrington.com/2019/05/where-to-buy-mason-bee-houses/