

# Build a winter home for animals

Give all sorts of creatures somewhere cosy to shelter this winter.

### What you need

- Sticks (garden canes or pea sticks)
- Twigs
- Leaves
- Bark, grass and stones

### How does it work?

It's not just hibernating animals that need somewhere safe and warm to shelter during winter. Lots of small animals and insects need a helping hand too. By using sticks as a frame and covering it with natural materials from your local area you can create a perfect shelter for them all. Small creatures like to crawl in between piles of sticks where it is warm and sheltered. Ladybirds enjoy hibernating inside dry dead wood. Beetles and hedgehogs love nesting in piles of dry leaves. Put some different-sized stones inside the shelter to create a safe space for toads.

### TOP TIP

After a week or so, check carefully if any creatures have moved into your shelter.



**1** Collect about a dozen garden canes or pea sticks, then go and gather fallen leaves, bark and twigs from a park, wood or your garden.



**2** Choose a tucked-away place out of the wind. Lean the longer sticks against one another to create a pyramid-shaped teepee frame.



**3** Keep adding sticks to complete the structure. Leave an opening for animals to enter.



**4** Cover the frame with smaller twigs and leaves to make it as sheltered as possible.



**5** Finally, add some leaves, bark and grass to the floor space inside the structure.

### SLEEPY HEADS

Dormice, hedgehogs and bats are the only British mammals that hibernate over winter.

