

Make a Mason Bee House



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Materials:

- 1 can (Soup or Bean—beware of sharp edges)
- Mason Bee nest tubes: 6 inches with an opening diameter of 5/16 inch
- Wire or zip tie

Note: Longer tubes allow for more female bees to be laid, so it makes a difference how big a can you use (3-10 inches is the best range).

Construction:

1. Drill two holes in the sides of the can to run wire or zip tie through to hang.
2. Optional: May prime and paint outside of the can
3. Measure tubes to can and cut to length
4. Insert tubes with the cut end first into the can until snug
5. Place in your yard with the opening facing south/southeast to allow morning light to warm the house and encourage foraging. A height of 5-7 feet above the ground is preferred so you can watch bee activity. Replace tubes once hatched.



Photo by T.Howard