

the Mason Bee House

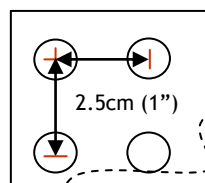
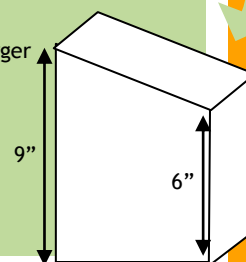
Female mason bees build their nests in already existing holes, therefore it is relatively easy to build artificial homes to accommodate them. Urban Forestry has set up mason bee houses at orchard sites to increase pollination of the orchards.

The bee houses are simple blocks of wood with a series of small holes (5/16" in diameter) drilled into them. The mason bee houses must be made of untreated wood, if they are sanded or painted or the bees will not inhabit them. A shingle used as a roof protects the bees from sun and rain.

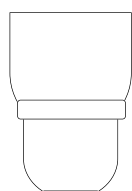
BUILDING A MASON BEE HOUSE

YOU WILL NEED:

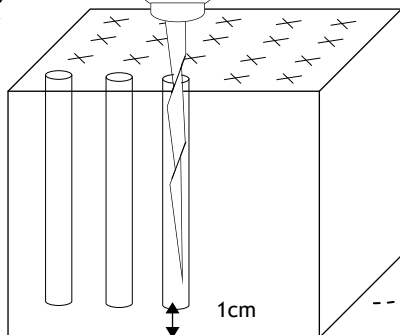
- 1 Untreated wood block (roughly 10 x 15cm)
Blocks can be made from wood of any shape, but one with a slanted end works well. Dead tree limbs, fence posts or scrap firewood all work well!
- Drill and 5/16" drill bit
- 1 Shingle or light piece of wood larger than the block
- Finishing nails
- String or Wire
- Scissors
- Safety glasses



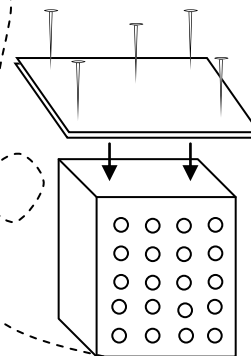
1. Start at one corner of the block face and drill a hole. Drill until the hole is around 1cm from the back of the block.



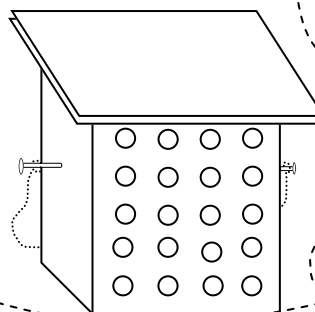
2. Continue drilling holes 2.5cm apart until the hole block is covered.



3. Using the finishing nails attach the shingle to the top of the block. (If your block is slanted at one end, attach shingle to the slanted



4. Hammer a finishing nail into each side of the block and tie a 45 cm piece of string to both sides.



5. Attach your bee house to a fence, house, or garage—anywhere in your garden close to flowers. Hang the bee house like a picture or loop it around a fence. Make sure it faces east and is at least 1 metre from the ground.