

# How to make a bird box

You will need:

- Plank of FSC wood - 15cmx1.4m roughly 1.5cm thick - Not pressure treated.
- Pencil & Tape Measure
- Saw
- Nails
- Strip of waterproof rubber (old bike inner tube)
- Drill
- Ladder - for fixing bird box in tree
- Screws
- OPTIONAL - Hole saw/cutter, a jig saw or coping saw
- Water based paints or colouring pencils
- An Adult for Supervision

## Step 1.

Using the diagram attached, measure and mark each section of the bird box on the plank of wood. Make sure to mark which section is which; front, back, side etc.

N.B. if you don't have a hole saw/cutter, jig saw or coping saw cut the front at 15cm (marked with a red line on the diagram)

## Step 2.

Using the saw cut out each section on the lines you have marked

Please ensure adult supervision when using sharp tools, nails and screws

## Step 3.

Using an 8mm drill bit, drill 5 holes in the base of the bird box. These holes allow drainage and airflow through the box.

## Step 4.

If you are building a box with entrance hole carefully cut a 3.2cm hole 15cm up from the base and central in the front section.

If using a jig saw or coping saw drill a small hole big enough for the blade to fit into on the edge of the marked circle then you can cut out the hole.

## Step 5.

Screw or nail the side, front, back and base together. If screwing you may find it useful to drill pilot holes to prevent the wood splitting. Make sure the screws/nails avoid each other

## Step 6.

Nail the rubber strip to the lid, leaving half of it overhanging the end. The strip will act as the hinge to allow you to lift the lid to empty the box each year. It will also stop rainwater from entering the box.

## Step 7.

Position the lid on the box and nail the rest of the rubber strip to the back board. If nails poke through the back or lid use a junior hack saw or file to remove the point of the nail.

## Step 8.

Using water based paints or colouring pencils decorate your bird box.

## Step 9.

Find a suitable tree for your bird box. The tree should be nice and tall, with plenty of other plants nearby for the birds to search for food and away from well-used paths. Ask your Adult to place your box around 3m from the ground facing between North & East.

## Step 10.

Watch to see what birds use the box and share your creations with us.