

# How to make a hedgehog home

## Why?

Hedgehogs are rapidly declining in both rural and urban areas. This is due to the loss of their natural habitat. There are multiple factors, but it is mainly linked to large-scale farming. Consequently, gardens are becoming an increasingly important habitat for them.

Hedgehogs require secure winter nests if they are to survive hibernation. They can find suitable sites under thick vegetation. In Autumn, they begin to collect materials, such as leaves to build their nests. However, in a more formal garden, there might not be as much opportunity for them to make a natural nest.

By building a hedgehog home, you will provide somewhere they can safely shelter and hibernate.

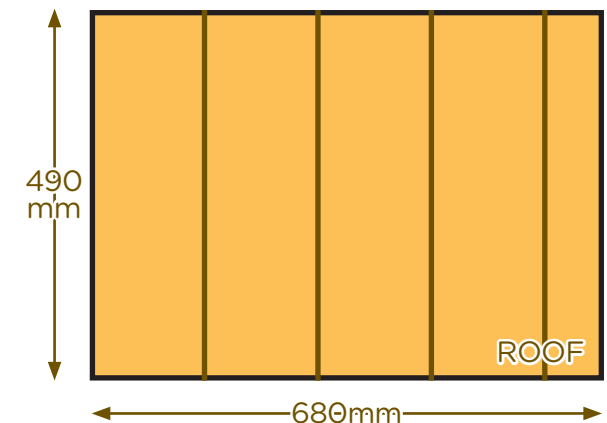
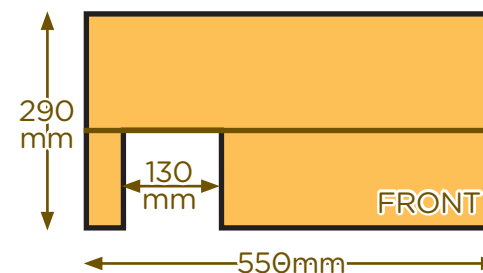
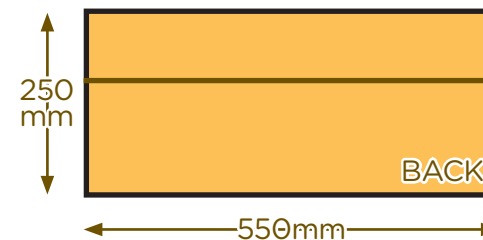
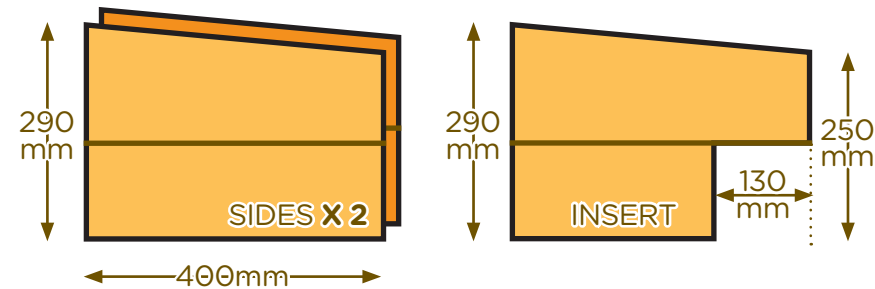
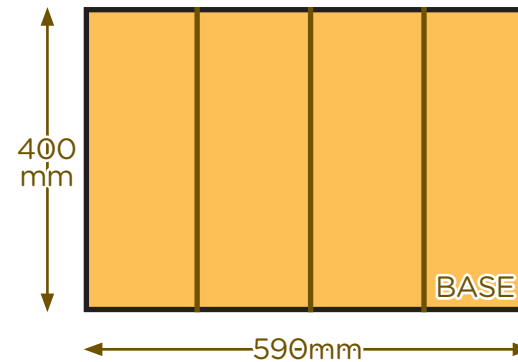
## Tools

- Drill / hammer
- Nails / screws
- Ruler / tape measure
- Saw
- Pencil
- Woodworking clamps



## Materials

- Five 2.4m lengths of untreated softwood 150mm x 20mm
- Three 2.4m lengths of untreated softwood 45mm x 20mm
- Dried leaves / straw
- **Optional:** Leaves / garden cuttings



## Step by Step diagram

Planks make the sides, top and bottom of the shelter, studs are screwed into, joining these elements together (see photos overleaf).

Planks: 150mm x 20mm

Studs: 45mm x 20mm

# How to make a hedgehog home

## Step by Step guide:

1. Use a ruler and pencil to measure the lengths as shown in the diagram. Then take the saw to cut out the sections.  
*Recommended:* wear safety gloves and cut away from your body. If possible, ask someone for help to hold the wood still as you cut
2. Assemble the pieces – backboard, sides and front and the base piece (minus the roof.) Firstly, screw or nail the side pieces to the backboard, then to the base and finally the front
3. Fill the box with a layer of dead, dry leaves or straw. Hedgehogs prefer small leaves. Then screw the roof to the box so that you can remove it in future to clean the box
4. It is best to place your hedgehog house down in the summer so it is ready for the autumn when hedgehogs begin to build their nests. Finding a suitable place for the box is very important. A quiet part of the garden, out of direct sunlight and sheltered under thick vegetation is ideal. Finally, cover the box with leaves or garden cuttings for shelter



## Tips

Every year the box should be cleaned around October. Just make sure there is not a hedgehog in residence! A good test is to put a small, light obstruction in the entrance to see if it is pushed aside overnight.

## Hedgehog friendly garden

### EASY ACCESS TO YOUR GARDEN

Make a 13cm gap at the bottom of your fencing or gate to give them access in and out

### FRESH FOOD AND WATER

Provide wet cat/dog food or hedgehog food along with a shallow bowl of water

### LEAF PILES

Leave a pile of undisturbed leaves to provide ideal nesting material

### POND RAMP

If you have a pond, place an escape ramp at the edge out of large stones or pieces of wood