

Hello, Little Oak Explorers,

It's me, Sprout the Hedgehog! Today, I have something really special for you—how to make your very own hedgehog house! With autumn here, it's the perfect time to help hedgehogs like me find a cosy place to sleep during the colder months.

Are you ready to get started? Here's what you'll need:

- An Adult
- A large wooden box (or you can build one yourself)
- A small piece of wood for the entrance (make sure it's big enough for me to squeeze through—about 13cm x 13cm)
- Some dry leaves or straw for bedding
- A saw (for adults to use)
- Nails and a hammer (for adults to use)
- A drill (for making small air holes – again adults only)

1. Prepare the Box: If you have a ready-made box, make sure it's sturdy. If you're building one from scratch, ask an adult to help cut the wood and nail it together. Make sure it's about 30cm deep and wide, so I'll have plenty of room to stretch out.
2. Make an Entrance: Cut a small hole in the front of the box for me to crawl through. The hole should be about 13cm x 13cm—just the right size for a hedgehog, but too small for predators!
3. Air Holes:: Using a drill, make a few small holes near the top of the box. This will let in some fresh air, but don't make them too big—we still want the house to be cosy!
4. Add Bedding: Hedgehogs like to stay warm and snug, so fill the box with dry leaves or straw. This will help insulate the house and keep it comfortable through the winter.
5. Find the Perfect Spot: Place the hedgehog house in a quiet, sheltered part of your garden, under some bushes or in a corner where it won't be disturbed. Make sure the entrance is away from the wind and rain.
6. Wait for a Visitor: Once everything is set up, leave the house alone. Hedgehogs like their privacy, so if you're lucky, you'll soon have a hedgehog move in and make it their cosy home for the winter.

That's it! With your help, we can make sure more hedgehogs have a safe and warm place to hibernate through the colder months. Thanks for building with me!

Your friend,  
Sprout the Hedgehog