

NEST BOX MAINTENANCE



When autumn begins:

- Remove nesting materials and dispose of it in a garbage bag. Spray the box down with a bleach and water solution. The ideal ratio is 10% bleach, as this is gentle enough not to harm birds, but kill any lingering pathogens that may be harmful.
- Cleaning old material out of your box is crucial, because old nesting material can harbour mites that will harm baby birds.

After cleaning out old material:

Thank you for purchasing a nest box from the Edmonton and Area Land Trust!

Not only does your purchase help us continue in our goal to conserve local land and the wildlife species that live there, it also provides valuable habitat for some of our feathered friends!



For Tree swallow boxes:

Do not put in any wood shavings or sawdust. This species will provide their own nesting material, so no need to add any!

For Saw-whet & Chickadee boxes:

Adding a handful of wood shavings helps these species feel more at home when its time to nest. Think of it as a nest starter kit!



NEST BOX INSTRUCTIONS

Installation Tips

Put your new box in a place where it won't be accessible to predators. These include cats, chipmunks, and even squirrels.

You can protect birds from predators by:

- Mounting your box on a metal pole, away from climbable structures
- Wrapping a metal sheet around the tree or post its mounted on below the box
- Installing a metal cone that faces downwards so predators can't climb up

Do not add perches or platforms outside the entrance of your nest box! It may look charming, but this presents an opportunity for the invasive European house sparrow to climb in. These sparrows will enter a nest box and destroy offspring of other birds. Native birds do not need a perch.

Pick a spot that's right for the box

Chickadee boxes:

- Chickadee boxes should ideally be placed 1.5 - 4.5 meters (5 - 15 feet) off the ground.
- Place the box away from prevailing winds.
- These boxes are ok to be placed on a building, post, pole, or tree. Chickadees prefer a **more treed area**.

Tree swallow boxes:

- Tree swallow boxes should be placed 1.5 - 2 meters (5 - 6 feet) off the ground.
- Place the box so it faces either south or east.
- This box is best on a stand-alone pole or post. They need a lot of room to fly directly in and out of the box, so an **open area with fewer trees is best**.

Saw-whet owl boxes:

- Saw-whet boxes should be placed 3.5 to 4.5 meters (12—15 feet) off the ground.
- Position the box so that its south-facing.
- Attach this box to a living tree. These birds prefer forest and open woodlands, so make sure your box is in an area with **lots of trees and cover!**

Examples of predator baffles:



Credit: Bill Griffith, Texas Bluebird Society.

An example of a metal pole with a "stovepipe" baffle. Read about this baffle at nestwatch.org.



Credit: Nestbox Builder

An example of a metal "cone" to prevent predators from climbing up.