

DIY Mason Bee House Directions

The Mason bee is a common name for species of bees. Mason bees are very effective pollinators. Just two or three females can pollinate a mature apple tree! Mason bees will also work in cool or rainy weather when honeybees are more likely to take the day off. It is very easy to build a house for the Mason bee, they are not too picky and they would love to have a place to stay in your yard!



Supplies:

- 1 empty tin can, label removed and washed **watch out for sharp edges! You may want to sand/grind them down
- Spray paint in your desired color (optional)
- Rolls of scrap paper, hollow bamboo stalks, hollow reeds or paper straws to put inside
- Nail and hammer to make a hole in the can
- Twine or wire to hang your DIY mason bee house
- Kid Friendly Glue (White School Glue, Gorilla Glue)

Directions:

1. Make your rolls of paper or cut your stalks of bamboo/hollow reeds/paper straws to the same length as the can.
2. Using a thick nail and hammer, make a hole in the bottom of the can to thread the twine/wire through.
3. Paint the tin can if desired.
4. Thread the twine through the hole and knot the end.
5. Add the hollow structures inside the can, packing as tightly as possible. You can apply a thin layer of glue at the bottom of your can. Once done, shake your can slightly and make sure that everything stays in place. Add more glue at the bottom or more paper rolls to keep things sturdy if needed.
6. Hang in an open, sunny spot which isn't shaded by plants, at least 3ft from the ground. The fixing must be secure – the can shouldn't move in the wind.

Sources: <https://www.turningclockback.com/diy-mason-bee-house/>
<https://www.pacificbeachcoalition.org/diy-bee-house-recycle/>