Many bee houses offered at stores are not properly designed to allow for cocoon removal and cleaning. Some houses have tunnels that are far too wide to be used by any native bees and invite pest species such as social wasps. Bee houses with too many nesting sites in one structure can provide a buffet for predators and a breeding ground for parasites and diseases.

When buying a bee house, make sure the structure has tunnels that can be cleaned!

More specifications on pg 2.
DIY BEE HOUSES

Create your own bee house from materials around your home or woodshop!

**Housing:** the outer housing can be made from wood, PVC piping, or recyclables like cans and milk containers.

**Nesting:** the nest tunnels are within the housing. They can be made by drilling holes in wood blocks, logs (no need for housing in this case), or cut lumber. If you're not into woodworking, harvest plant stems such as hollow reeds, roll newspaper, or purchase cardboard straws. Make sure the back of the tunnel is sealed so light does not come in.

Making various sized tunnels, .35” and less, can attract a variety of bee types!

**Whether buying or making, follow these guidelines:**
- Tunnels can be opened to remove cocoons and clean (paper, cardboard, reeds, modular trays).
- Beware of bamboo; cocoons cannot be removed.
- Tunnels are at least 6" (15 cm) long.
- Tunnels are .35” (9 mm) or less in diameter.
- Structure can be firmly secured (not swinging).
- Nest tunnels have protection from elements (roof).

**Locating and caring for your bee house**
- Mount to a solid object like a post, house, or fence.
- Orient so it is facing direct sunlight in the morning.
- Make sure there are flowers near the house.
- At eye level ~3-6’ (~1-2 m) above the ground.
- Can be placed on balconies, up to 10 stories.
- Area is free of pesticides that are harmful to bees.

**Find more information on pollinators and creating and caring for bee houses see pollinator.org, this video, and Crown Bees**

www.pollinator.org

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**Materials from around your house can be turned into bee houses**