

Log Style Home



Materials

- 6 inch diameter or larger log approximately 6 to 8 inches long
- Metal Strap or mounting board 1 x 4 x 6 to 10 inch long untreated lumber
- Nails or screws to fasten mounting to back of house

Note - Roof is not needed as the bark or round surface of the log will naturally shed water

Fabrication Steps

1. Drill holes in the face of the log 6 inches deep spaced 3/4" apart. Do not be concerned about exact spacing between holes.
 - For leafcutter bees, Drill holes 1/4" diameter - 2 1/2 to 4 to 6" deep.
 - For mason bees, Drill Holes 5/16" diameter holes- 6" deep,
2. To help ensure the drill bit enters at the desired location on the face of the log
 - Mark the location with a pencil
 - Using Nail or center punch make a depression at the pencil marks to help start the drill bit start in the correct location
3. To prevent drilling completely thru the log wrap tape around the drill bit such that the depth of the drill from the start of the tape wrap is at least 1 inch shorter that the depth of the log to ensure you do not drill completely through the back.
4. Attach the metal strap or the mounting board to the back of the log extending it above the log by at least 4 inches to attach to the mounting location.
5. You can also use eye hooks screwed in to the top of the log to use wire to hang the log home in the desired location.
6. Hang the log or mount log securely on a fence post or pole at the edge of the yard positioning the log to face southeast, allowing it to get morning sun.
7. The optimal location to hang your mason bee house is 6 to 7 feet off the ground,



Raising Solitary Bees

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After two years, it is best to retire your wood log to prevent buildup of diseases and parasites. Take your nest log down from its mounting location and place it with the holes facing down in a protected location away from the mounting location to allow the bees to hatch. If you leave the block up or near the original mounting location there is a potential more bees will colonize it.

Once the season is over you can drill out all the holes to clean out the old burrows and soak the log with the holes up in a solution of 1 part Clorox to 10 parts water. Place the holes facing up in the solution allowing the solution to enter the holes.

Let the solution sit in the holes overnight and then rinse it out with clean water and let drain and dry with the holes facing down till next spring when you can hang the home back out in your garden for the next generation of inhabitants.