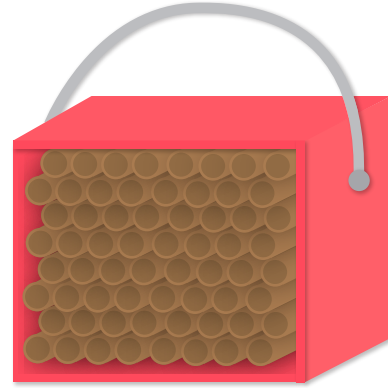# DIY Bee Box

Celebrate National Pollinator's Week by building a home for a mason bee!

Collect

· A shoe box or coffee can

· Lots of 8 1/2 x 11" paper

· 5/16" wooden dowel (1/4" or 3/8" would also work)

· White glue

· Wire

Build a bee box

1. Measure the depth of your container. Trim the shorter edge of the paper to match the length. For example, if your shoebox is 6 inches deep, cut two and half inches from the short side so the final sheet is 6" x 11".
2. Place the dowel along the long edge of the paper and roll the paper around the dowel.
3. Place a small amount of glue along the final edge to secure it.
4. Tip the tube so the dowel falls out. Repeat until you have enough paper tubes to completely fill your container.
5. Stack the tubes in the container making them as snug as possible without squishing them. You should be able to stand the container up without any tubes falling out.
6. To make the hanger, make a small hole at the top on either side of the container and tie the wire through each hole.

Location, location, location!

When it's time to hang your bee box, location is very important. Find an area that faces the south but still receives a moderate amount of sunlight. Since your bee box contains paper, try to find a spot that is protected from rain, like underneath an awning. Female mason bees use mud to help protect holes with eggs, so it's also important to make sure your bee box is near an area where they can find mud.

What are mason bees?

When most people think about bees and pollination they think of the honey bee, but mason bees are just as important to pollination in our area! Mason bees carry pollen on their abdomens instead of their legs. Unlike honey bees, mason bees don't produce any honey. Many people also confuse mason bees with carpenter bees. While carpenter bees burrow into wood and can sometimes be considered a pest, mason bees typically nest inside existing holes made from birds or other insects. Your new bee box will be the perfect home for any mason bees in your neighborhood!