

THE NESTBOX COMPANY LTD

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Nesting boxes thoughtfully designed for their inhabitants!

The HEDGEHOG NEST BOX

Efficient winter nests are essential if hedgehogs are to survive hibernation. In Autumn they begin to collect leaves, grass, straw, bracken, etc. and use these materials to build their own nests under hedgerows, fallen logs, compost heaps or piles of brushwood. You can help, however, by encouraging any hedgehog in the vicinity to become resident in your garden and by providing a more permanent structure for hibernation. A female hedgehog may even have her young in it in the Spring.

The Nestbox Company Ltd has designed this Hedgehog Nestbox in co-operation with the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and Dr Pat Morris, one of the UK's leading hedgehog experts. It has also been tested by hedgehog rehabilitators with great success.

Your Hedgehog Nestbox has been weather-proofed with water-based preservative. **On no account** should the nestbox be creosoted or treated with a solvent/oil-based preservative as the fumes can remain for a long time and may be harmful.

Where to site your Hedgehog Nestbox

Place the Hedgehog Nestbox in a quiet shaded part of your garden. Make sure the entrance to the box doesn't face North or North-East, avoiding cold Winter winds. Do not keep checking the box for hedgehogs or you may scare away any potential residents. If you really want to see if an animal is using the box, try placing a small light obstacle at the entrance to see if it gets pushed away.

It is a good idea to hide the box or tuck it away under a pile of loose brush or leaves etc, so that it is unobtrusive, but still easy to access for the hedgehog, and trying to avoid the box remaining damp by ensuring good ventilation around it.

Part-filling the nestbox with dry leaves or straw means less work for the hedgehog.

Cleaning out the Nestbox

In the wild, nests are obviously not cleaned out. However, if you wish to clean out your hedgehog box the ideal time is in late March. This is post-hibernation and pre-nesting time. Carefully remove the old bedding. If you find a hedgehog, replace the material and leave well alone. As long as the box is empty, if necessary sprinkle with a hedgehog-friendly flea treatment (one suitable for caged birds: **cat & dog flea treatment is too strong**). The box could be rinsed with slightly soapy water. When dry, leave fresh bedding for the next resident.



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