



# Solitary Bee Nesting Boxes

There are more than 20,000 species of bees. 3,500 species have been reported in North America. Solitary bees are important pollinators.

Most bees are solitary insects that live in a hole in the ground, or in a hollow tube-like cavity. They form a pollen ball mixed with a little nectar, lay an egg on the pollen ball and seal the cell for the young to develop.

A few species are social and live in colonies. Bumble bees and honey bees are social bees.



## Plans to build your own tube nesting habitat

Begin with a 4x4 block of wood. DO NOT use CCA Treated lumber. A single or two 2x4s maybe be used. Cut an angle at the top of the block and nail or screw a roof piece to the angle. This protects from moisture. Drill a hole in the center back, on an upward angle for a hanger. Mount solid so as not to move. Don't not drill through back of box.

Drill varying hole sizes - 1/8", 3/16", 1/4", 3/8" - the middle range of sizes are the most likely to be used.

Hang in a sunny location, 3-15 feet off the ground.

