

Basics: Setting Up Your Mason Bee House

Provide a house that is 8" to 12" deep and has an overhang. The depth and overhang help keep water out.



Use an emergence tube or small box to release cocoons. The hole should be from 5/16" to 1/2" in diameter. This release chamber protects the cocoons from weather and birds.



Add "holes". These nesting holes can be a block, cardboard tubes with white liners or a combination of both.

Add more holes when half of the existing holes have been filled. Likely some of the other holes are partially filled if half the holes provided are full.

New recommendation: Place some bottle caps under the block or tubes and liners to keep them off the bottom of the house where water may pool.



Do not move the existing holes when you add more holes. The bee has made a mental map of her nesting site. She will be confused if you move the holes. Add more holes around the current holes or put up another house.

Add a wire screen 3" away from the holes if you are near a wooded area or have a bird feeder nearby. One-inch openings in the wire screen can allow the bees to fly through easily while keeping birds out.