

Build a butterfly house

Make a cosy home for butterflies and help protect the insects.

What you need

- Juice or milk carton, washed
- Ruler
- Pen
- Scissors
- Bark
- Glue
- Leaves
- Twigs
- 20-centimetre piece of string



WARNING!
Ask an adult to help you make cuts in the carton.

How does it work?

With three quarters of British butterflies in decline, it is important to make a space for them in our gardens. Butterflies help flowers pollinate and are a food source for other animals, such as birds. During bad weather, they need somewhere warm and dry to shelter. They also need protection from predators, somewhere to rest at night and to hibernate during the winter.



1 On the front of the carton, measure out and draw three rectangles, each one seven centimetres long and one centimetre wide.



2 Cut out the rectangles to make three slits. This is how the butterflies will enter and leave their new house.



3 Cut a large flap into the carton on the opposite side from the slits. Pull the flap back to open it. This is your viewing door.



4 Open the large flap and place a few pieces of bark loose inside the carton. These will give the butterflies somewhere to perch.



5 Now stick twigs and leaves to the front and sides (but not the back) of the carton. Don't cover the slits.



6 Thread some string through a few leaves. Finally, attach the string to the top of the carton.

TOP TIP

Entice butterflies to the house by making a sugar solution of one part sugar to four parts warm water and place inside the house.