

INSECT HOTEL

You may not want insects in your hotel room, but you should consider making them their own hotel in your yard. Plain and simple, an insect hotel is a space for insects to live, nest and eat. Here in Wisconsin, we have more than 1,000 native insects! About 80% of flowering plants require pollination by insects or other native pollinators. Plus, the insects and the plants they pollinate help attract more bird species. Many native bird species are insectivores including eastern bluebirds, various woodpecker species and American robins. Insects not only help your lawn and garden but also supply these birds with a nutritious meal.



The Milwaukee County Zoo has an insect hotel in an off-exhibit garden, behind the dairy barn. It was created by a Boy Scout in 2021. It has a wooden roof and shelves that hold cardboard rolls, leaves and twigs. The hotels don't last long because the bugs slowly eat away at the material and, because the wood needs to be untreated, it breaks down quickly. If you can't build a hotel, consider keeping a brush pile somewhere in your yard to attract and feed bugs. It's all about the circle of life and providing homes to all living things.

