

# How We Make Winter Easier For Our Garden Guests

There are many things we can do for our garden guests to make winter more comfortable for them – which will also help their population remain steady or climbing. In addition to winter homes for many of them, we can also provide food and fresh water.

## 1. Butterfly Houses and Feeder:



These homes, plus the food, can be purchased in many places, particularly garden centres or online. Simply place them in a warm, sheltered spot, so they can utilize the morning sun. The butterflies will perch contentedly in their house, knowing that breakfast is just outside their door!

Not only are butterflies very beneficial for pollinating plants, but they eat lots of woolly aphids.

## 2. Lady Bird Houses:



There are many styles of Lady Bird houses. You can either buy them or build them - from wood or containers, which you may already have on hand. Many websites have great instructions.

Lady birds make speedy work of aphids in your garden!

## 3. Bee Boxes:



Again, these boxes may be purchased or handmade. Not only are they perfect for solitary bees, such as mason bees and leafcutter bees, but they make great homes for ladybirds and lacewings.

Like the rest of the homes, mentioned above, position the box in a sheltered spot, and where it catches the morning rays!

## 4. Bat Houses:



Due to the increasing lack of insects in many places - which the bats feed on - and the decreasing number of places for the bats to perch, we can help them by either buying or building homes for them. Again, there are many designs to choose from. Your bat house should be placed in the sun, approximately 12 to 15 feet off the ground to deter predators.

## 5. Frog and Toad Houses:



Frog and Toad houses come in many styles, not to mention the ones you can make yourself – even a broken plant pot will do. Just contact 'Mr. Google' for ideas! If you want frogs and toads living in your garden, remember to start doing things which will eventually attract them. NEVER remove them from their natural habitat somewhere else. They are extraordinary eaters of mosquitoes, slugs, and snails.

## 6. Hedgehog Homes:



Again, you may buy hedgehog homes or construct your own.

For this particular animal, I would suggest that you go to:

[www.hedgehoghome.co.uk/index.html](http://www.hedgehoghome.co.uk/index.html)

as hedgehogs are more particular about their habitat, and you need to be quite knowledgeable if you wish to have them in your garden.

## 10. Birds:

Due to the decreasing numbers of many types of birds, it is important that we feed them on a regular basis, all year round. And keep a constant supply of fresh water available, also. There are many types of feeders that you can buy or create, plus lovely birdbaths, just perfect for your garden. Remember that feeders should be kept about 12 feet away from trees, or anywhere else, that predators can use to reach them. Also, use hard plastic or metal poles to hold the feeders. This will prevent animals (for example, cats), from reaching the feeders and the birds feeding from them.