

Helping wildlife in your garden

Information for Kingsbrook residents

*Here a **seven simple things** you can do to make your new garden a great place for wildlife, without compromising all those other things you want your garden to be.*



Gardens are important places. They are somewhere for the kids to play, where you can entertain friends and relax, and you might want to grow flowers and vegetables. At the same time, they can also be great places for wildlife such as birds and butterflies, which in turn will give you pleasure. So here are **seven simple things** you can do to give nature a home in your garden, without compromising all the other things you want your garden to be.

1. Grow plants!

It's a simple equation: the more plants you have in your garden (trees, bushes, climbers, flowers, lawns) the more wildlife you will support. Decking, concrete, gravel and artificial grass are all dead space for wildlife.



Don't worry if you don't have 'green fingers'; there are many plants that are easy to grow (see our separate 'Garden Plant Ideas' helpsheet).

2. Just add water

Where there's water, there's life. A good start is a birdbath, which include very stylish ones to buy, but an upturned dustbin lid on four bricks works just as well (*below*).



The next step up is a little pond, which can be made with just an old washing-up bowl sunk in a flower bed. The larger the pond, the better it will be for wildlife.

3. Nature's recycling

You can turn almost any 'garden waste' into wildlife homes: piles of logs and sticks become homes for frogs and newts; so too can old pallets when turned into a compost bin for grass cuttings, leaves and prunings.



4. Places to nest

A new garden hasn't got any hidey-holes for hedgehogs, blue tits, robins or even little bees to nest, so why not put up a nestbox or two.



Golden rule: bird nest boxes should face north or east; bee-boxes should face south.

5. Extra nibbles

A bit of supplementary food will help birds through the winter. Use hanging feeders or a bird table to keep food off the ground. Sunflower hearts are their favourite, and should leave little mess.



Golden rule: Don't put out any food that is salted.

6. Cut out chemicals

Each time a pesticide is used, it removes a vital part of the food chain. Relax and let nature find a balance – it usually does. Or if you do need to act, there are better things to use than chemicals. For example, to remove slugs, beer-traps work just as well as toxic slug pellets.

7. Learn a bit more

Knowledge is your best asset. For instance, if you know that *Verbena bonariensis*, Marjoram and Echinacea are three of the best plants for nectaring butterflies, you can focus your effort on growing those. The RSPB has lots of ideas to try – go to rspb.org.uk/homes.

Further information

If you have any further questions about helping wildlife at Kingsbrook, please speak to the sales team in the Show Home offices. If they don't know the answer, they will find out for you!

For all information about Kingsbrook, go to www.kingsbrook-aylesbury.co.uk