

# Create a hibernaculum

## What is a hibernaculum?

A hibernaculum has many nooks and crannies that provide a safe space for amphibians and reptiles to hibernate through the winter months. It can also provide refuge for many other species of native wildlife, like hedgehogs.

A hibernaculum can be a variety of shapes and sizes, but we've given ideas to create a small one below. You can always make it bigger!



## Make your own hibernaculum

### You will need:

- A spade or trowel
- Gloves
- Sticks, wood cutoffs and logs. Try to use ones recently cut down or scattered around your area. Avoid dismantling stick piles (there might already be something living in there)!
- Small to medium sized rocks, or broken bricks
- Two or three pieces of unused drainpipe

### All you need to do is:

- 1 Dig a hole that is around 40-60cm deep and 50-70cm across.
- 2 Fill the hole with the logs, sticks, rocks and bricks, in loose layers.
- 3 Place the drainpipe pieces to the sides of the hibernaculum near the bottom in-between the layers. These will make safe entrance and exit tunnels for wildlife.
- 4 Cover the rocks and logs with soil until it forms a mound that is round 50cm high (or higher if you want too), make sure not to cover up the entrances to the drainpipes.
- 5 Wait for wildlife to move in and record what you can see.



Be patient with your hibernaculum, if there's space for animals, they will visit.