

# Bird Box Location Guide

Our birds aren't always able to find a natural place to shelter or nest, so putting a bird box up in your garden can make a real difference.

As well as being a place to lay eggs and raise their young, bird boxes can also offer somewhere to roost and rest that's sheltered from the elements.

You can help encourage birds to use your nest box by providing a nearby source of food and water.

## Things to consider when choosing where to position your bird box include:

- Boxes for tits, sparrows, or starlings should be fixed two to four metres up a tree or a wall.
- Unless there are trees or buildings which shade the box during the day, face the box between north and east, thus avoiding strong sunlight and the wettest winds.
- Make sure that the birds have a clear flight path to the nest without any clutter directly in front of the entrance.
- Tilt the box forward slightly so that any driving rain will hit the roof and bounce clear.





- If you put two similar boxes up close together, they might both be occupied by the same species if they are at the edge of adjoining territories, and there is plenty of food to support them. By putting up different boxes, several species can be attracted.
- House sparrows, starlings, and swifts will readily use bird boxes placed high up under the eaves. Since these birds nest in colonies, two or three can be sited together spaced out on the same side of the house. Keep these away from areas where house martins normally nest.
- Always try to place the box out of reach of potential predators such as cats and squirrels.

Don't worry if birds don't move into your bird box straight away, it may take them time to explore and discover it.

## Maintaining your bird box

If you recognise that your bird box hasn't been used for a year or two, we recommend removing the box in autumn time, clearing out any debris, and rinsing the box with boiling water to flush out any potential parasites.

Always ensure it's completely dry before rehangng.

