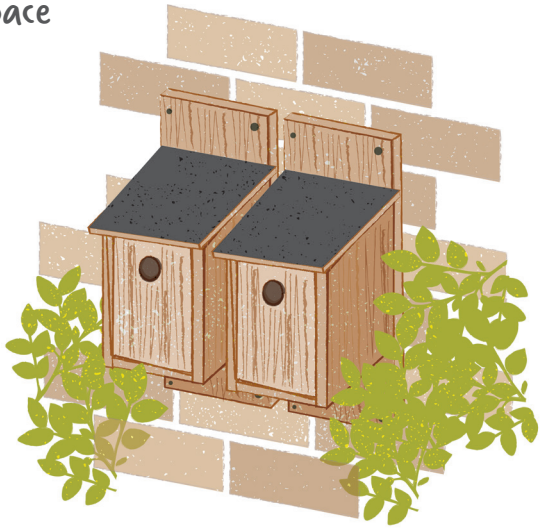
Naturehood

EARTHWATCH INSTITUTE

DIY house sparrow box

Follow our simple instructions to make your own house sparrow box. House sparrows like to live close to one another, so ideally build and install two or more boxes together. Don't forget to record this action in your My Naturespace area of the Naturehood website.



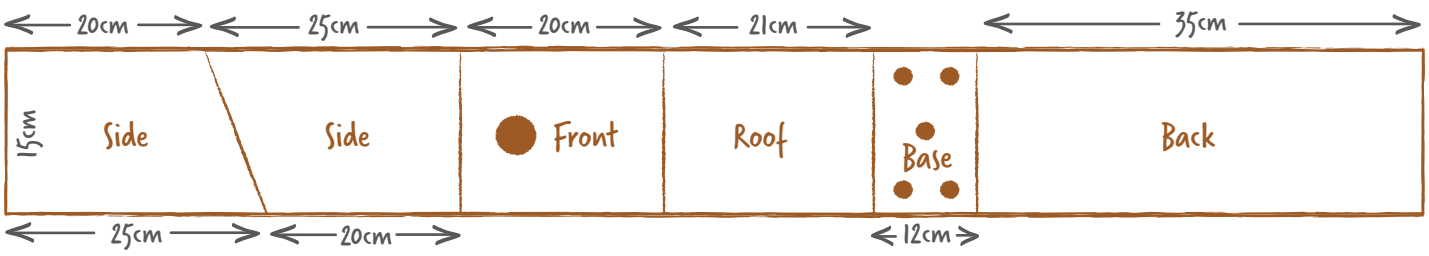
Please note that adult supervision is required if children are taking part in this activity.

Equipment

- **Pencil**
- **Tape measure**
- **Ruler**
- **Saw**
- **Drill and drill bit for making 3.2 cm holes** (optional)
- **Hammer/screwdriver**
- **Nails/screws**
- **Plank of FSC wood,** 15 cm wide x 140 cm long, and 1.5 cm thick
- **Protective equipment** (gloves, eye protection)
- **Work bench or similar**
- **Clamps to secure wood whilst cutting**
- **Strip of waterproof material** (eg roofing felt, or cut up tyre inner tube)
- **Ladder**

How to build a house sparrow box

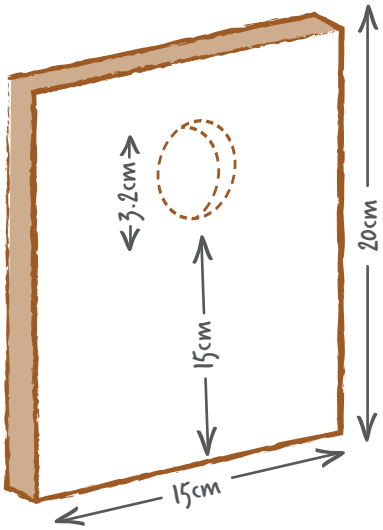
Step 1: Cut the wood into the correct dimensions



Note: if you have bought wood that is of a different thickness, the base dimensions should be calculated as 15 cm by 15 cm minus 2 x the thickness of the wood. For instance, if the wood is 1.8 cm thick, the base should be 15 cm x 11.4 cm.

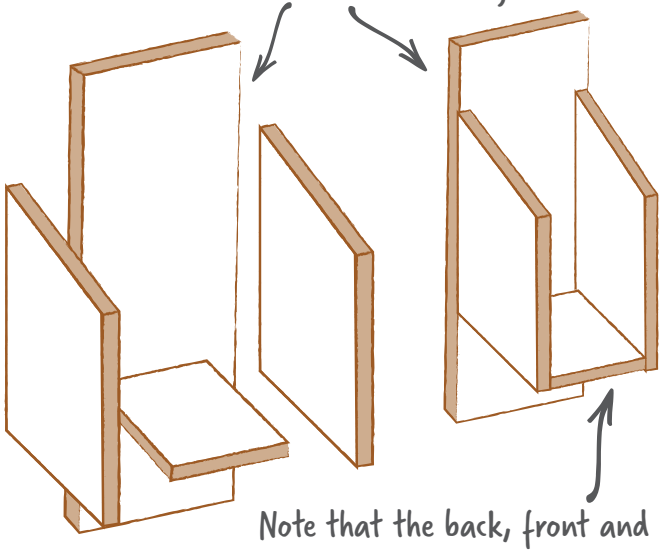
Step 2: Cut the entrance hole

To create the entrance, either use a 3.2 cm drill bit to make a round hole, or use a jigsaw to cut a similar-sized hole along the top edge.



Step 3: Base and sides

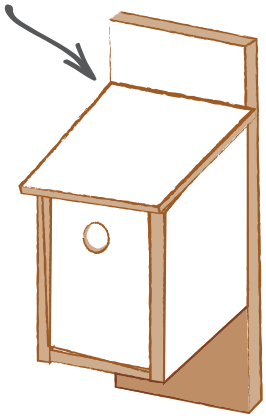
Nail the base, sides and back together



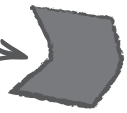
Note that the back, front and sides wrap around the base, rather than sitting on top of it

Step 4: Roof

Place the roof on top of the box, and use a couple of screws to secure it in place. By using screws, you can easily remove the roof to clean the nest box each year.



Cut the waterproof strip to size (15 cm x minimum of 10 cm)

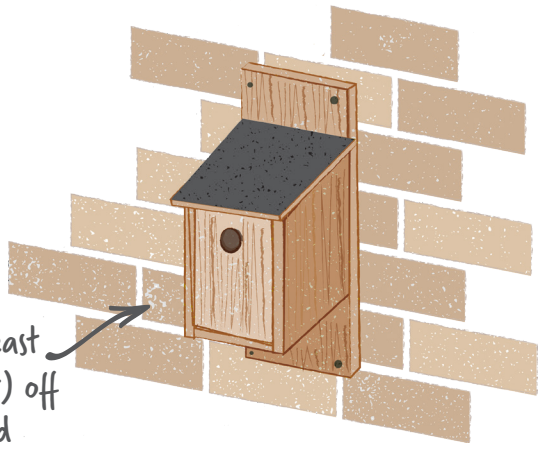


This will be used as a hinge to open and close the top, and to make the join between the back and the roof more waterproof.

Nail the strip so that the top edge is on the back board and the lower edge is on top of the roof.

Step 5: Install your nest box(es)

Using your ladder, and the relevant attachments for the wall you have chosen, place your house sparrow box(es) at least 3 m (10 ft) off the ground. Try to avoid putting it above paths that are used very frequently or above doors. The ideal orientation for your nest box is between north and east. This ensures that the box doesn't get too warm during hot summer months.



Place at least 3 m (10 ft) off the ground

Based on designs by the RSPB

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HERITAGE FUND