

# Make an Earwig Hide

The Parks Trust  
MILTON KEYNES

Earwigs are mostly nocturnal, coming out to feed at nighttime. Their favourite food is soft plant matter, but they also eat smaller insects like aphids and fruit flies.



A small plant pot



Straw, hay or dried grass



Leaves



A bamboo cane or stick

## What you'll need:



## How to make your hide:



### Step 1:

Stuff your plant pot with straw, hay or dried grass.



### Step 2:

Carefully push your cane or stick into soft ground near a compost heap or other fresh vegetation.

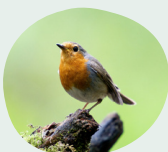


## Unloved Creature Feature!

Some growers don't like earwigs because they can be known to munch on prize plants. But they are great to have and an important part of the ecosystem!

They help keep aphid populations down - so if you have fruit trees, place your earwig hide near those and they will protect your fruit for you.

They are also an important food for:



birds



beetles



toads



shrews

### Step 3:

Turn your filled plant pot upside down and push it onto the end of your stick. Earwigs like small, dark places to hide during the day so this hidey hole will be the perfect place for them!

### Did you know?

Female earwigs are the only UK insect to look after their babies after they hatch?



### Top Tip:

If your grass keeps falling out of the bottom, you could use some string to keep it in place.