

LEARN AT CHESTERZOO

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'LL 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.