Tips for a Successful Bee Hotel

Placement

• Install the hotel so tubes are horizontal and at least a few feet off the ground.
• Pick a sheltered spot, such as under a roof overhang. You can also put the bundle in a larger, open-ended can or tube for shelter.
• Morning sun helps bees get an early start on the day.

Maintenance

• Regular maintenance is essential for a healthy bee hotel. Otherwise, bee parasites accumulate.
• Old nest tubes must be phased out every couple of years.
• Because of bees’ overlapping life cycles, a hotel is never completely empty. This is why phasing out an old hotel takes a little planning.
• The easiest method is to make a dark box with one small, bee-sized hole in it. In the fall, take down your hotel and place it in the box. Protect the box from ants and spiders, for example by applying a band of petroleum jelly.
• Leave the box in an unheated place over the winter and set it outside in the spring. Bees will emerge and exit through the hole in the box, but will not go back inside to build new nests in the old hotel.
• At the end of the summer, when all bees have emerged, take the old hotel out of the box and discard it.

More details and tips at this link: