

# How to build your own Mason Bee house!

## Materials- per one house

- 12 wood screws, 1 1/2 in.
- 1 in / 8 in, untreated cedar wood, 25 ft for whole
- About 15, bamboo stalks,

## If planting on pole-

- Bag of quick Crete plus water
- 3 / 4 in floor flange
- 4, 1 in. stainless steel screws
- 6 feet of electrical conduit or you could use a wooden post

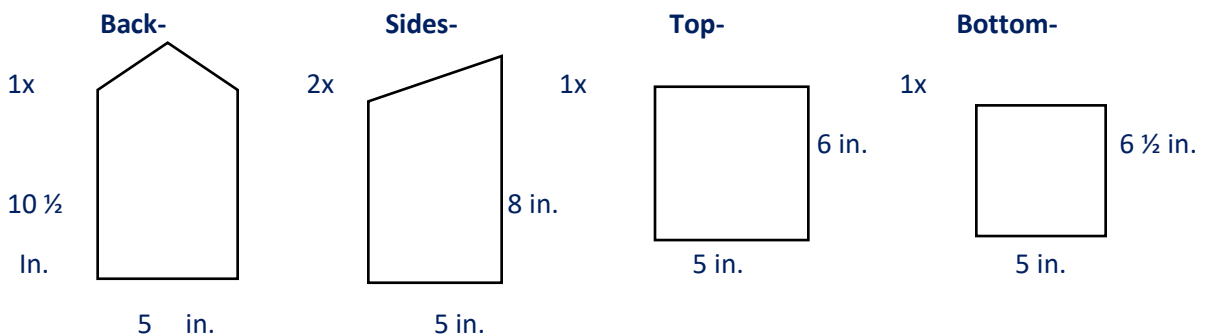
But you can hang on a wall using an industrial hook.

## Tools-

- Bamboo Shears can buy at target.
- Sander or sandpaper
- Wood cutting saw
- Goggle and gloves (gotta be safe!)
- Ruler and pencil for measurement
- Drill plus drill bits

## Steps:

First gather your bamboo and cut each stalk into 5-7 in pieces. Some stalks contain a furry brown coating. You don't want this on your rods, so take it off. The best way to get them off, is twist to loosen it, then slide it off the top of the stalk. Once cut, Store the rods for later. Then get your wood, sand it, and cut it into 5 pieces as shown below:



After you have cut the pieces, get your 12 wood screws and your drill ready. The first four screws go in the back piece to connect the two side pieces to the back. Make sure to put the side pieces as close to the side of the back piece and all the way to the bottom of the back piece. Then pick four more screws and screw the bottom piece to the bottom of the two side pieces. Then take the remaining screws and screw on the top piece to the top of the side pieces. Make sure during this process of drilling in screws to not drill the screws in all the way, due to the risk of splitting the wood. What works best is to drill in the screws as close to the wood, then use a screw to finish it off.

**\*\* This next part is for if you plan to put it on a pole. \*\***

Next take the 4 stainless steel screws and use those to attach the floor flange to the bottom of the bee houses. Then dig an 18 in. hole and place the 6-foot-long electrical conduit in it. Level the conduit and place the quick Crete inside plus water and wait for it to dry. Once dry, fill hole back up with dirt and place the bee house on top of the conduit, screwing the floor flange into the top of the conduit. Then place the bamboo rods in the house, making sure to fill the bee house all the way up and compact them together, so that the rods do not fall out. Finally, if desired plant plants, like purple hyacinth, blue asters, or yellow black-eyed susans around the base to attract the bees and make the houses more visually pleasing. Enjoy and have fun with your new bee friends.

If you need help or advice, feel free to email me at [reidlorenz@hotmail.com](mailto:reidlorenz@hotmail.com)