



# Leafcutter Bee House

*Please read these instructions  
carefully prior to installing your  
BeeHome in the garden.*

## About your BeeHome

This year BeeGAP is providing each Leafcutter BeeHome with seasoned and reusable wooden leafcutter bee nesting trays.

These nesting trays have been used in our commercial leafcutter bee breeding programme and coated with important leafcutter bee pheromones.

The presence of these pheromones on the nesting trays will provide you the greatest possible success when raising your own leafcutter bees this seasons.

Once your leafcutter bees start to emerge from their cocoons this season, they will begin looking for attractive nesting sites - and this is where your seasoned nesting trays become valuable.

The bees will be more attracted to locations where previous nesting activity has already occurred.

## Positioning your BeeHome

Ideally you should look to position your BeeHome somewhere you can sit back, relax and enjoy the activity of the bees once nesting activities begin.

Position your BeeHome to receive a good amount of morning sunshine. Early morning sun is important, as this helps to warm the bees up and assists them to become more active and productive earlier in the day.

If possible, position in a sheltered location away from strong prevailing winds.

A good height to position the BeeHome is around 1-2 meters off the ground. This height is great for viewing and checking on activity.

If you live in an area with extreme heat or dry spells, consider placing the BeeHome somewhere that gets shade as midday approaches to avoid the bees from overheating.

## Hanging your BeeHome

Your BeeHome has been assembled to include a handy hanging hook on the rear of the product. This allows you to easily hang the BeeHome on an existing or new screw or nail (not included).

Once you've positioned your BeeHome in your desired location, ensure the nesting trays are firmly pressed towards the back of the BeeHome and the rubber band remains around them - keeping them securely together throughout the leafcutter bee breeding season.

### **Note:**

Ensure the fixing your BeeHome is attached to is secure as the BeeHome is not designed to be dropped from a height.

For more information visit:

<https://beegap.co.nz>

## About Seasoned Nesting Trays

Seasoned nesting trays have pheromones remaining within the nesting tunnels of the wooden nesting trays that the female leafcutter bees would have secreted during a previous year's breeding season. This makes these nesting trays highly valuable and a highly attractive nesting option for future generations of leafcutter bees.

You have two ends to your seasoned leafcutter nesting trays. One end has been lightly finished, and the other has the helpful markings from BeeGAP's own breeding programme. Feel free to position the trays either way round.

### **Important Note:**

It is important never to wash these trays or use any type of detergents or chemical on them. A gentle dry brush is fine to remove any debris or used leaf matter from a previous leafcutter bee breeding season.

## Things to avoid

Avoid positioning your BeeHome in a location that:

- Is prone to driving rain
- Will be hit by irrigation
- Above 2 meters high
- On the ground
- Is likely to overheat
- That receive NO sun
- Is near chemical sprays
- Cannot be easily viewed
- Doesn't get morning sun

Positioning your BeeHome near bird feeders is also not suggested as emerging leafcutter bees will become an attractive meal for nearby birds.

More articles on your leafcutter BeeHome can be found on our websites "Learn" section here:

<https://beegap.co.nz/learn>