

How to correctly site a nest box

When you are ready to site your new nest box, there are a few do's and don'ts (guidelines, as there are no absolutes with wildlife) to give your nest boxes the best chances of adoption. As well as helping the birds have a greater likelihood of successfully fledging their brood.

Bird Nest Box Do's

- Do place the nest box facing north, north-east.
- Do leave a clear flight path in and out of the nest box.
- Do locate near a tree or shrub in which the parent can land and check the coast is clear before entering the nest box.
- Do leave an active nest box alone and keep noise and disturbance to a minimum.

Bird Nest Box Don't

- Don't add pegs or perches on the front of nest boxes which can be used by predators.
- Don't expose the nest box to direct midday or afternoon sunshine.
- Don't point the hole or open side of the nest box to westerly winds.
- Don't forget to take time to enjoy the birds in your garden. It's a joy watching young birds emerge from a nest box, to take their first flight from a home that you provided.

Now let's look at a few specifics...

Which direction should a bird nesting box face?

Bird nest boxes should ideally face between north and east. This will catch morning sunshine but avoid the heat of the midday sun. It will also keep them out of our prevailing wind and rain which usually comes from the west. The bird nest box should ideally also be tilted marginally forward to allow any rain to run clear of the entrance. This all helps create a more suitable and safe environment for eggs and growing birds.

What time of year should you site a bird nest box?

Garden birds will look for places to roost or store food during the winter, often returning to nest in the spring. For this reason, siting your nest box in late autumn

or early winter is ideal. However, there's never really a bad time to site a nest box as each season brings a different use.