

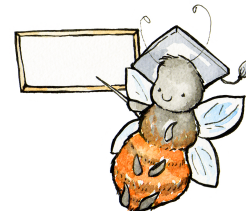


MASONBEES.CO.UK
FINDING SOLITARY BEES A HOME



COCOON RELEASE BOX

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'Maisy B' artwork © 2020, Kat Whelan / Kat Whelan Illustrations

WELCOME! Thank you for purchasing a Cocoon Release Box! Keep your solitary bee cocoons safe from the elements and large garden predators during their emergence into the wild. A clear plastic tub and breathable lid are also included, which can be used to store cocoons over Winter / prior to release.

SITING INSTRUCTIONS

- Position in an area that receives **direct sunlight** throughout the day. *Increases in air temperature stimulate the emergence process – selecting a warm, sunny location for your release box is paramount.*
- Mount to a wall, fence, or free-standing post, or use un-mounted – simply place on a stable surface, such as a garden table wall, or bench.
- Position at relatively low height while in use, i.e. **50-100cm** above the ground. *(Bees tend to exit the release box by falling rather than flying!)*
- The holes in the front should be orientated to face **East**, in order to discourage Mason bees using the inside of the box as a nesting location.
- A nesting site/bee hotel should be installed no further than **25 metres** away from the release box – the closer, the better.

CONTENTS:

1	Cocoon Release Box
1	Plastic Cocoon Storage Tub with Lid

**VIEW THIS
GUIDE ONLINE:**



HOW TO USE YOUR RELEASE BOX

After positioning the release box according to the instructions above, place up to 150 solitary bee cocoons directly into the main compartment and close the lid. Bees will emerge over a number of days and weeks, as air temperatures increase. Males generally emerge first, well in advance of the females.

When to place your cocoons outdoors will be largely species being released, but also your geographical location and microclimate. For example, bee of the same species will generally begin flying earlier in the South of the country compared to the North, mirroring the arrival of the seasons and warmer weather conditions.

Whatever the species, it's unlikely your bees will emerge all at once – emergence is a gradual process; the period between the first bee emerging to the last can be days, or it can be weeks – please be patient!

NB: If this product was purchased as part of a Guardian Kit, additional information on the *Osmia bicornis* release process will be provided when cocoons are dispatched in March.

A waterproofing treatment has been applied to the exterior surfaces of this product, allowing for immediate outdoor use.