Make a bug hotel

Bugs love an untidy garden! Piles of leaves provide a food source for some bugs and shelter for others. For many bugs, a heap of autumn leaves is the ideal place to hibernate through the winter. If you have a garden with no room for a bug-friendly patch of untidiness, why not make a bug hotel out of a 'tidy' leaf pile?

How to make it:

You will need:

- Plastic mesh or chicken-wire
- Garden string/wire
- A flat piece of wood
- A pile of dead leaves

Roll the chicken-wire or plastic mesh into a tube and tie it in place using four twists of plastic covered garden wire.

Take some dead plant stems or twigs and poke them through the sides of the tube at the bottom. Overlap the twigs to form a natural mesh which will stop the leaves from falling out.

Gather plenty of dead leaves and use them to fill the tube.

Put a piece of wood on top of the tube to weigh it down and keep it from blowing over in windy weather.

Put your hotel in a quiet, shady corner of the garden for your bugs to enjoy.