



Bluebird & Tree Swallow

Birdhouse Instructions

Bluebirds and Tree Swallows make great feathery friends due to their attractive plumage and assistance with pest control. These birdhouses are designed to meet their needs as Bluebirds in particular tend to be bullied out of nesting spaces by more aggressive birds like sparrows and starlings. The wide opening ensures the birds have more room to come and go as they please without being blocked in by bully birds.



Location, Location, Location

Keep the following in mind when you install your birdhouses to increase the odds that someone will come to make a nest inside:

- Place them in a relatively open area, Tree Swallows and Bluebirds need plenty of space to swoop and fly in order to catch the insects they feed on! Face south-south east.
- Place houses in groups of 2, spaced about 20ft apart: the birds will guard two separate nesting locations
- Install the birdhouse on a post about 5-6ft off the ground, you can use wire to fasten the house to a post or attach it directly with screws
- You may want to drill extra holes in the back of the house when using wires to attach it to the post for extra security

Clean and Secure

Watch out for critters that may want to raid the nests. You can protect the birdhouses by installing a baffle on the post. Baffles can be purchased or made at home. We use old PVC pipe for our baffles since the pipe is too slippery for animals to climb.

You will also want to make sure your birdhouse is kept nice and clean for the health of your new residents. We recommend cleaning out the birdhouses at the end of each breeding season once the birds no longer return to the house.

To clean your birdhouse, simply remove the nail on the left side (when the house is facing you) and the front of the birdhouse can be swung open from the bottom. Then simply clean out the inside of the house by removing old nesting material and waste, washing it with a light bleach solution, rinsing it thoroughly, and letting it dry in the sun.

These sturdy and durable birdhouses were made by Wayne and are a tried-and-true design to last for years. Within the first year we installed these houses throughout our orchards, we have seen many Tree Swallows and even a Bluebird family move in!