

nestbox

COMPANY

User Guide



Eco Barn Owl
Nest Box
(01BAPZZZZ)

Welcome to your new Eco Barn Owl Nest Box

Thank you for purchasing one of the Nestbox Company's family of products. We hope you and the Barn Owls will enjoy many years use with this nest box.

This is an advanced nest box for Barn Owls, the development of which has taken into account our experience of over 10 years of previous models, advice from Barn Owl specialists, customer comments and recent advances in manufacturing and materials technology.

This box is kind to the environment. With the exception of the floor, it is made from highly durable and solid recycled plastic, specially formulated for a very long life outside in all weathers. The wooden floor is just as eco-friendly, constructed from FSC® certified OSB (economically made of wood shavings from waste and other sustainable sources).

This Guide is provided to help you (and the owls) get the most from this box, but we realise that many of our customers have worked out better ways of doing things, so please let us know of any tips you have, or improvements to this guide which you would suggest.

Inside the Carton

When you unpack the box it comes in, you should find the following items:

Fully assembled nest box



Front and Back panels for Fixing Bracket



2 Hatch Closures



and OSB floor



If one of these at first seems to be missing, please have a look inside the nest box, as we sometimes pack items inside for transit.

Putting the Box up in Position

The Eco Barn Owl Nest Box is suitable for fitting to a wall (inside or out), or fitting outside to a tree, wall or post.

When fitting inside, we suggest it should be high up (at least 3 metres if possible). Near the apex of a roof is ideal, providing there is enough ventilation to avoid overheating when the sun shines on the roof. Please ensure that the owls have permanent access to the roof space, and that the entrance to the box is in full view of any visiting owls.

When siting a box outside (on a building or tree etc) there are a number of factors to consider which are likely to contribute to how attractive the box is to barn owls and the success of the box for rearing a brood of owls.

- We recommend that the box is fitted at least 4.5 metres high.
- To minimise the risk of overheating it is best to site the box somewhere shaded that avoids too much direct sunshine (especially in the middle of the day).
- To reduce rain being blown into the box, if possible face the box away from the prevailing wind.
- It is best to choose a location where any passing owls can clearly see the entrance hole (and any inhabitants have a good view out).
- All the owls, but particularly the young ones, will benefit from suitable perches close to the nest box.

When erecting and inspecting the box, please pay special attention to your personal safety.

Carrying heavy weights and working at these heights on ladders can be dangerous if you do not take the appropriate precautions to avoid falling or other accidents. Whilst we have designed this nest box to facilitate safe working, it is the user's responsibility to ensure that it is used safely.

The separate Mounting Bracket should be fitted to the tree or wall etc first, and then the box should be fitted onto the hooks on the bracket.

We suggest before climbing up the ladder etc, first take the back panel of the bracket, and bend the sides in through a right angle with the grooves inside the angle.





Then take the front panel of the bracket and fit it onto the back panel, with the hooks coming right through the slots, with the tabs behind the hooks fitting flush with the front panel.



Next, separate the 2 parts of the bracket, and fit the back of the bracket to the tree or wall etc (making sure the hooks face upwards) This can be done with screws (as shown) or nails either using the holes provided, or drilling additional holes. Alternatively, slots are provided for attaching the bracket to a tree etc with straps or cable.



Once the back is attached, fit the front of the bracket onto it.

Before taking the box up the tree we suggest you remove (and leave behind) the wooden floor and Hatch Closures, as these can all be fitted once the box is in position up the tree.

Take the box up the tree etc (you may find it helps to put a loop of cord or rope through the keyholes so you can hang the box over your shoulder while taking it up the ladder). Hook the box onto the bracket, using the elongated keyholes in the back of the box. Pull the box down so that it is securely held.



The bracket takes the full weight of the box, and we recommend securing the box in a vertical position using the bottom bracket (which should be “curled” so that it is flat on the surface of the wall or tree). It may be useful to put a small block of wood etc between the wall or tree and the box to make sure it stays in a vertical position.



As an alternative, the box can be fitted without using the Fixing Bracket, simply by using screws or nails with the elongated keyholes.

Fitting Out Box

To get the box ready for use, secure the side hatch with the 2 Hatch Closures. These are simply fitted by putting their “T-shaped” lugs into the slots at the side of the hatch, and then sliding them down. They can be fitted either way up, whichever is more convenient. Please note that when in situ these are designed to be used by the owls as perches, so you may notice an owl sitting on one in due course.

Finally, manoeuvre the wooden floor into position, up through the large hole in the plastic floor. It simply rests in place on the plastic edges to the floor.

Service and Maintenance

Please note that as Barn Owls are a protected species, occupied nests should not be visited unless you hold a licence.

Your box should last for many years without any attention, except for the floor. We would suggest removing this for cleaning and inspection every year or two. It is designed to be sacrificial, ie because it will become damp in use, it will deteriorate and we suggest it should be replaced every few years with a new floor. Replacement floors are available from our web site.

The Access Hatch on the left side of the box is provided for inspection and ringing etc of resident owls by suitably licenced users, as well as others when there are no owls using the box. The Hatch has an integral hinge where the groove separates it from the roof/side panel. Although stiff to use at first, it will open at right angles, once the Hatch Closures have been removed by sliding up and out of their slots. The Hatch Closures are designed to hold the hatch up and out of the way by sliding them back into the slots in the box. If you are concerned about dropping the Hatch Closures while working on the box, we have put a hole in each of them, suitable for attaching a cord to ensure they do not fall to the ground. The size and shape of the access hole is designed to reduce the possibility of birds escaping around the side of your arm whilst you are inspecting the box.

Specifications, Warranty etc

The specifications of the product described and the contents of this User Guide are subject to change without notice, as part of our continuous improvement process.

Whilst every care has been taken in the preparation of this document, we realise that it will still be possible to improve it. If you find any errors, omissions or points which are not clear, or have any suggestions for improving it, please let us know by email at mail@nestbox.co.uk. We will endeavour to deal with any problem to your satisfaction, and learn from it for future versions.

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The Nestbox Company Limited warrants all its products against defects in materials and manufacture for 6 months from the date of purchase. If a defect is discovered, The Nestbox Company will repair or replace the product (at its option) free of charge, provided it is returned to the address in this User Guide at the customer's expense.

The Nestbox Company Limited is not able to accept any responsibility for any loss, damage, or loss of data suffered by any customer or third party as a result of use, misuse or malfunction of the product or this User Guide. In particular, whilst the product has been extensively tested, we are unable to warrant that is error free.

If you have a further technical or user question relating to the product, please email it to us at mail@nestbox.co.uk.

Care for the Environment

As you might expect, The Nestbox Company cares deeply about the Environment. We have adopted an Environmental Policy designed to demonstrate our commitment to operating our business in harmony with the natural and man made environments. If you wish to see the full policy, it is available to read on our web site.

Our products are developed to be economical with natural resources, both in manufacture and use. We comply with the relevant laws and regulations, including those relating to the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (known as RoHS) and Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE).

The plastic used in this product is 100% recycled Low Density Polyethylene. The wood used in our products comes from responsibly managed forests, as part of our commitment to the Forest Stewardship Council.

When you have finished using this product, please dispose of it responsibly.

This User Guide is printed on recycled paper.

Accessories for your Nest Box

Our range of accessories is designed to enable customers to make the best use of their purchase. Why not accessorise your equipment to extend its capabilities and make it do exactly what you want? The following examples of our accessories may be of interest:

Replacement Floor for Eco Barn Owl Nest Box (O3A81ZZZZ)

We recommend replacing the floor panel of your nest box every few years.

You can find the full range of accessories

on our web site, **www.nestbox.co.uk**,

or just scan the QR code here:



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