

## IBSTOCK ECO RANGE - BEEHABITATS

Over the past decade, numbers of our native bees have been falling at an alarming rate. This is in part due to habitat loss as our urban areas grow.

These vital pollinators, that help our crops, plants and flora to grow, are suffering. Just under 250 species of pollinators in the UK, are solitary bees, who do not live in colonies (like Honeybees), but in cracks, crevices and holes in buildings, walls and trees.

Due to global campaigns, bees are viewed as a critical part of the natural world and we are being encouraged to invite these fascinating creatures into our gardens and, with the Ibstock BeeHabitat, safely into our living environments.

The Ibstock BeeHabitat allows the bee to create a safe nest in the face of the brick. With an enclosed back and sides, resident bees can only enter and leave through the face holes, ensuring safety for both bee and homeowner.

The Ibstock BeeHabitat is designed specifically for these solitary bee species:

- [Ashy mining bee](#) (*Andrena cineraria*)
- [Box-headed blood bees](#) (*Sphecodes monilicornis*)
- [Gooden's Nomad bee](#) (*Nomada goodeniana*)
- [Hairy-footed flower bee](#) (*Anthophora plumipes*)
- [Ivy mining bee](#) (*Colletes hederæ*)
- [Long-horned bee](#) (*Eucera longicornis*)
- [Mourning bee](#) (*Melecta albifrons*)
- [Pantaloön bee](#) (*Dasypoda hirsuta*)
- [Patchwork leaf-cutter bee](#) (*Megachile centuncularis*)
- [Red Mason bee](#) (*Osmia bicornis*)
- [Tawny mining bee](#) (*Andrena fulva*)
- [Wool carder bee](#) (*Anthidium manicatum*)
- **Harebell Carpenter Bee** - *Chelostoma campanularum*



**Note:** Information supplied by conservation group, Buglife.

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## GUIDELINES TO CONSTRUCTION

Ibstock BeeHabitats can be used in any standard clay brick construction using the following guidance.

BeeHabitats should be placed in a warm, sunny spot on a south-facing wall at a minimum height of 1m, with no vegetation obstructing the holes. It is highly recommended that bee-friendly plants should be located nearby so that the bees using the bricks have a food source, otherwise it is unlikely that the brick will be used.

Target species are a number of Solitary bees including Mason bees, Leafcutter bees and Harebell bees. Recommended height is 1-1.5 metres from ground level. South or south-easterly facing walls within 100 metres of flowering habitat recommended, preferably closer to potential food sources.

The BeeHabitats should be spaced, no more than four per 1m<sup>2</sup> of brick wall. Siting under window openings should be avoided.

The Ibstock BeeHabitat should be installed in the same way as standard masonry. Using the Ibstock BeeHabitat as recommended will not cause any issues with movement. The perforated entrance holes do not travel all the way through the brick, meaning cavity walls are protected.

## GEOGRAPHICAL RESTRICTIONS

There are no geographical restrictions and these types of bees are present throughout the UK and Europe.

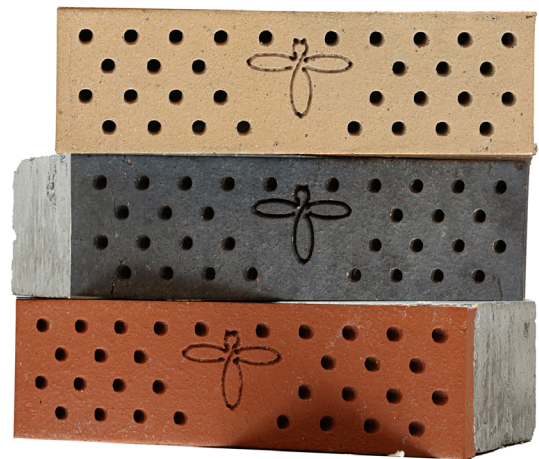
## CLEANING AND CARE GUIDANCE

Cleaning and maintenance of the Ibstock BeeHabitat is not completely necessary. However cleaning is recommended in order to optimise bee habitation. Female bees nest close to where they first emerge, so there is a great possibility that, once your brick is occupied this will be a lifetime cycle. Some species of bees prefer to use clean holes for laying their egg, whilst other types of Solitary bee will clean the cavities out prior to nesting. If you would like to clean the cavities in your Ibstock BeeHabitat, we recommend checking with a torch making absolutely sure that there are no bees present. Use a pipe cleaner or short length of thin electrical wire; Insert into the cavity first to clear any nesting material and then thoroughly clean around the hole, drawing out any dirt/detritus. It is recommended this is done from October onwards when it is apparent which nests are full, have failed or are empty.

## PRODUCT TECHNICAL DATA

### BRICK TYPES

Cheddar Red, Cheddar Golden (Buff) and Staffordshire Slate Blue Smooth.



### BRICK SIZE

215mm x 102mm x 65mm

### NEST HOLE DEPTH/DIMENSIONS

As shown, varying dimensions, to accommodate differing species. Holes enclosed by brick slip to the rear side.

### DURABILITY

Brick Slip facing rated F2.

### LIMITATIONS OF USE

- The Ibstock BeeHabitat is not suitable for use above 11m
- Not recommended to be installed under opening windows
- Not recommended for use in areas of heavy footfall-Footpaths and places of high disturbance
- The Ibstock BeeHabitat is fabricated from a brick slip face with a concrete core (for this reason it should not be used as a return) and is available in blue, red and buff colours.

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