

# 5 STEPS TO BUILD A HOME FOR REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS



## 01. DIG A SMALL PIT

Dig a shallow pit, around 30cm deep, and save the turned turf and soil to one side for later.

## 02. CREATE SHALLOW EDGES

Make the pit shallow at the edges to allow for reptiles and amphibians to access in and out easily.

## 03. FILL THE PIT

Fill the pit with rubble, stones, old terracotta pots, logs and large sticks so that it mounds in the centre.

## 04. APPLY TURF

Now apply the turf over the soil, making sure it joins the edges to prevent it drying out.

## 05. COVER THE MOUND

Cover the rubble mound with the soil dug from the pit making sure to leave a gap at the bottom so wildlife can get into the pile.

## WHAT YOU NEED:

- Gather materials: spade, rubble, bricks, rocks, stones, logs, soil and sticks of varying sizes.
- Ideal size: 1.5 x 2 meters (can be smaller, but avoid too small to prevent cold issues).
- Build on free-draining ground to prevent water accumulation.
- Choose a shady area with good surrounding cover.
- Allow vegetation growth on the north face for reptile and amphibian shelter.
- Keep vegetation on the north face short for basking areas.
- Avoid frost pockets to prevent freezing inside the hibernacula.

**Note:** Avoid leaving the dug pit open overnight to prevent trapping wildlife; don't dig in wet areas to prevent flooding; steer clear of frost pockets to avoid freezing; keep grass on the southern slope short for reptile basking.

**Source:** Thomson Environmental Consultants, experts in habitat creation, habitat management, surveys and mitigation as well as invasive species management and vegetation clearance. Find out more [www.thomsonec.com](http://www.thomsonec.com).