

Beetles, spiders and other invertebrates use piles of dead, damp and decaying wood as a place to shelter and feed.

Deadwood is not a common sight anymore. It is often cleared away to make woodlands and gardens look tidier. This means that beetles and other saproxylic invertebrates (those who depend on deadwood) lose this important habitat.



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Stag Beetle (*Lucanus cervus*) © Ben Andrew

You will need:

- ✓ Logs, twigs and sticks
- ✓ Bark
- ✓ Dead leaves

At least 2,000 species of invertebrates in the UK depend on deadwood!

How to make your deadwood pile:

- ✓ Pile up the deadwood and different sized logs in a cool, shady part of your garden.

Get creative with how you stack your logs - your deadwood pile can be a feature in your garden! Consider creating a stumpery, with your logs orientated vertically and half buried in the ground - these features are particularly favoured by Stag Beetles.

- ✓ Add bark and leaves to the pile of wood. These will also attract hibernating toads and hedgehogs to the pile.
- ✓ Leave the pile to rot naturally, creating perfect conditions for many different invertebrates. Add a new log each year, as the old ones decay.



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