

## Spike's New Home

To help increase hedgehog numbers and awareness, Herefordshire Council as part of a Highways Biodiversity project is providing 100 hedgehog habitats to schools, childcare centres and local community centres.

This page will tell you how to take care of your box and where to place it. You can find activities in a range of subjects all relating to hedgehogs on our website - just search for Spike.

### About your box

**Materials used:** The box can be opened and is made up of two parts. Together it measures 44 cm wide x 44 cm deep and 22 cm high. Although the box is small, it is heavy it requires two people to move it. This is because the box is made of a long lasting material called Ecostyrocrite™. This is created by taking used polystyrene that was heading to landfill, shredding it and mixing it with cement. This is then moulded to make an insulated and durable home for a hedgehog that should last decades!

**Where to place it:** Find a quiet, shaded, and dry area around a tree line to place your box. Remember to check for access! If there's no way for them to get to the box they can't move in. You don't need to place any bedding as hedgehogs will make their own nest from materials in the surrounding environment. If you really want to help them the best thing to do is ensure there are plenty of leaves near to the box.

*Want to think like a hedgehog? Use the board game cards to create a hazard or a maze.  
Hedgehog activity:*

*Why not print out or create your own hedgehog sign to warn others to be mindful.  
Hedgehog activity: Spike signs*

**Maintenance:** Boxes can be left well alone, with only the regular spot checks for damage as hedgehogs will clean after themselves. However, if you feel you want to clean the habitats out the best time is after winter use (early April). The first thing you need to do is ensure there isn't a hedgehog in there. To do this place a small very light obstruction in front of the entrance, if it's moved the next day you know it's in use. If not you can remove the top of the box, throw out any old bedding that's inside and clean with just water. Please do not use any chemicals as these are harmful to hedgehogs. They also have a keen sense of smell and may not want to use the box if it has been treated.

