

We have the Power!

We often think of conservation as something that happens in a far-off land, but there are some things we can have a direct impact on, quite literally, in our own backyards!

This means we can see the effect our changes are having before our very eyes!
But it's not magic!..... It's just good sense!



So what can we do to help hedgehogs and other wildlife right here in the UK?

- Make a hedgehog friendly garden for yourself, or a friend/family member, using some of the tips from the Decision Game:



- Open up your own **hedgehog restaurant** (Or 'Hedge-aurant' as I like to call them!) by encouraging their invertebrate prey into your garden;
 - Build log piles,
 - Make a compost heap,
 - Plant nectar rich plants and wildflower seeds,
 - Put out extra food at night like meaty cat food – especially good this time of year when hedgehogs are trying to put weight on to help them survive their winter hibernation!



- Create **Hedgehog Highway holes** in fences to connect neighbouring gardens so hedgehogs can safely roam as far as they need to – this is around 2km each night!



Image credit: Hedgehog street.org

- Build a **shallow pond** to give hedgehogs a safe drinking place, and to encourage more yummy invertebrate prey.



- **Leave the tidying up!** Hedgehogs need piles of leaves and sticks or overgrown areas to nest and hibernate in, so give yourself a break and leave it hedgehog friendly.

- Make someone a **hedgehog hibernaculum** or '**hogitat**' as a Christmas gift to put in their garden.



- **Spread the word!** Tell friends and family about what they can do; Make a poster about the decline of our hedgehogs, or a fact sheet on hedgehogs & pop them up in your window, or take them into school.
- In a few weeks time, hedgehogs will start going into hibernation for the winter, but until then you can still put out food for hedgehogs to help fatten them up, and you may still get a glimpse of them at night, or see their poo in the garden the next morning. **Letting scientists know** about where we've seen animals in the wild will help with their research, so don't forget to log that hedgehog sighting on a **mammal tracking app**.

Hedgehog craft ideas:

- Use some autumnal treasures to make a hedgehog model or picture



Photo: Applique hedgehog made of autumn yellow leaves by Marco Verch under [Creative Commons 2.0](#)



- **Make a hedgehog cake** (halved chocolate fingers, halved chocolate buttons or slivered almonds make excellent spines!)



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Did you know...?

Adult hedgehogs have around 6000 spines!

Did you know...?

There are also lighter coloured 'blonde' and albino hedgehogs

- **Make a pear and sunflower seed hedgehog to feed the birds!**

Did you know...?

Baby hedgehogs are called 'hoglets'.

