

Attract lizards to your garden!

### **Introduction:**

Get involved in conserving lizards by creating an inviting home for them in your garden.

Make a lizard lounge

*Did you know?*

- *Lizards love to hide in small spaces*
- *Many of geckos make 'chirping' noises, or even 'bark'*
- *Skinks can blink, but geckos can't – they have to lick their eyes to keep them moist*

### **What you will need:**

- Some found materials like old concrete, stones, bricks, dead wood or corrugated metal (make sure you have permission to use them!)
- A native plant or two
- A quiet, dry area of your garden that gets decent sunlight

### **Step one:**

Start searching for the perfect spot for your lizard lounge. Prime locations include warm, dry and sunny areas.

In the chosen area of your garden, plant your native flora.

When choosing plants, look for tussocks of grass and plants with branches that tangle up to make for great hiding spots. Your local native plant nursery should have a good range to choose from.

### **Step two:**

Lizards need safe shelter to thrive. See our example of a homemade lizard habitat using corrugated iron, stones, and grass.



Stack your materials loosely, allowing for plenty of cracks and holes to build a cosy lizard home. Lizards like to squeeze their body into holes no more than 5-19 mm wide. Hopefully, some spiders, ants, and beetles will take up residence too, as they make tasty lizard treats.

Top tip: If you smear a bit of yogurt or milk onto your new shelter, you may have some lichen or moss grow in a few weeks' time!

### **Step three:**

Wait until you have a new tenant.

Keep your eyes peeled for a lizard basking in the sun, as they are cold-blooded animals (also known as an ectotherm) and rely on environmental temperature to keep their bodies warm.

If you have other pets that might disturb the area, you can put some netting across it to keep it safe.

### **Step four:**

Sit back and relax!

Lizards do not like to be disturbed once they've made a home, so try not to move habitat around once it's up and running. It can also be tempting to give your scaly friend a pat when it moves in, but it is best to give them personal space and watch from a distance. Instead, you can take pictures, leave a small dish of water nearby or some berries to show you care.

By building a special habitat in your garden for lizards you give them shelter from their biggest threats: predation and habitat destruction. Thanks for making a difference!