

BUILD A WĒTĀ MOTEL



New Zealand has more than 70 species of wētā, from small ground wētā to wētā that can be heavier than a mouse! Wētā have been around since the time of the dinosaurs and only exist in New Zealand. Many wētā species are now endangered, so it's very important we look after them. A wētā motel will help protect them from being eaten by introduced predators like rats, stoats, cats and hedgehogs.

YOU WILL NEED

- Small log
- Saw, chisel and drill
- Nails and hammer
- Material for motel roof (plastic or iron)
- String or wire to hang up your motel
- An adult to give you a hand

GET BUILDING

Saw a small log in half. Chisel out some rooms for the wētā and drill an entrance tunnel. A tunnel 18mm or slightly smaller is best to stop mice getting in (10 mm is too small). The tunnel should be quite long and sloping down from the top or the side. Nail the two halves of the log together and then nail on a roof. Hang or tie the motel in a tree in a shady spot at about eye level, out of reach of rats or mice. Want a 5-star upgrade for your wētā, or some handy hints on making your motel?

Go to www.kiwiguardians.co.nz

BE PATIENT

In a forest wētā move into purpose-built motels within about three months. After a year there are usually about four wētā in each motel.

Tell us about your wētā motel and we'll send you a Toyota Kiwi Guardians Habitat Creator medal.

**REMEMBER TO CLAIM YOUR ACTION MEDAL
AT KIWIGUARDIANS.CO.NZ**



Wētā prefer motels without windows but they will live in motels with windows as long as their main space is deep.

Female wētā lay up to 300 eggs, so if you build a home they like their numbers may grow!

You can check if you have any wētā guests by using hinges to join up the two halves of the log!

