

# Possam Box

## Purpose

To provide a safe nesting site for possums to sleep in.

## Animals

Possams such as the brushtail possum and western ringtail possum.

## Difficulty

Challenging.

## Cost

\$150.00.

*Note: Citizen Scientists involved in the project will receive a discount on this item!*



## Purchase

'Medium mammal (rear entry)' box from The Re-cyc-ology Project.

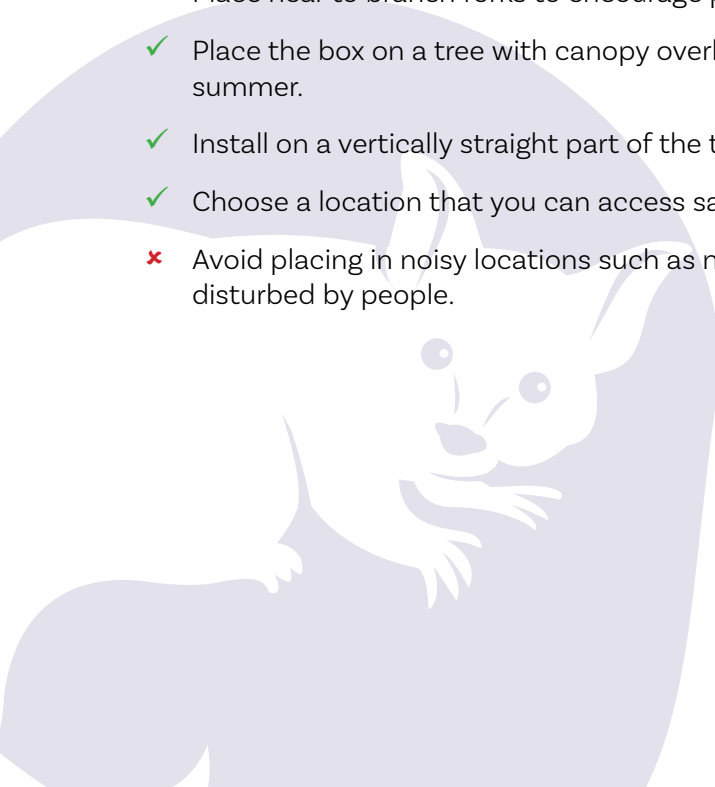
<http://www.re-cyc-ology.com.au/p/nest-box-orders.html>

## Equipment

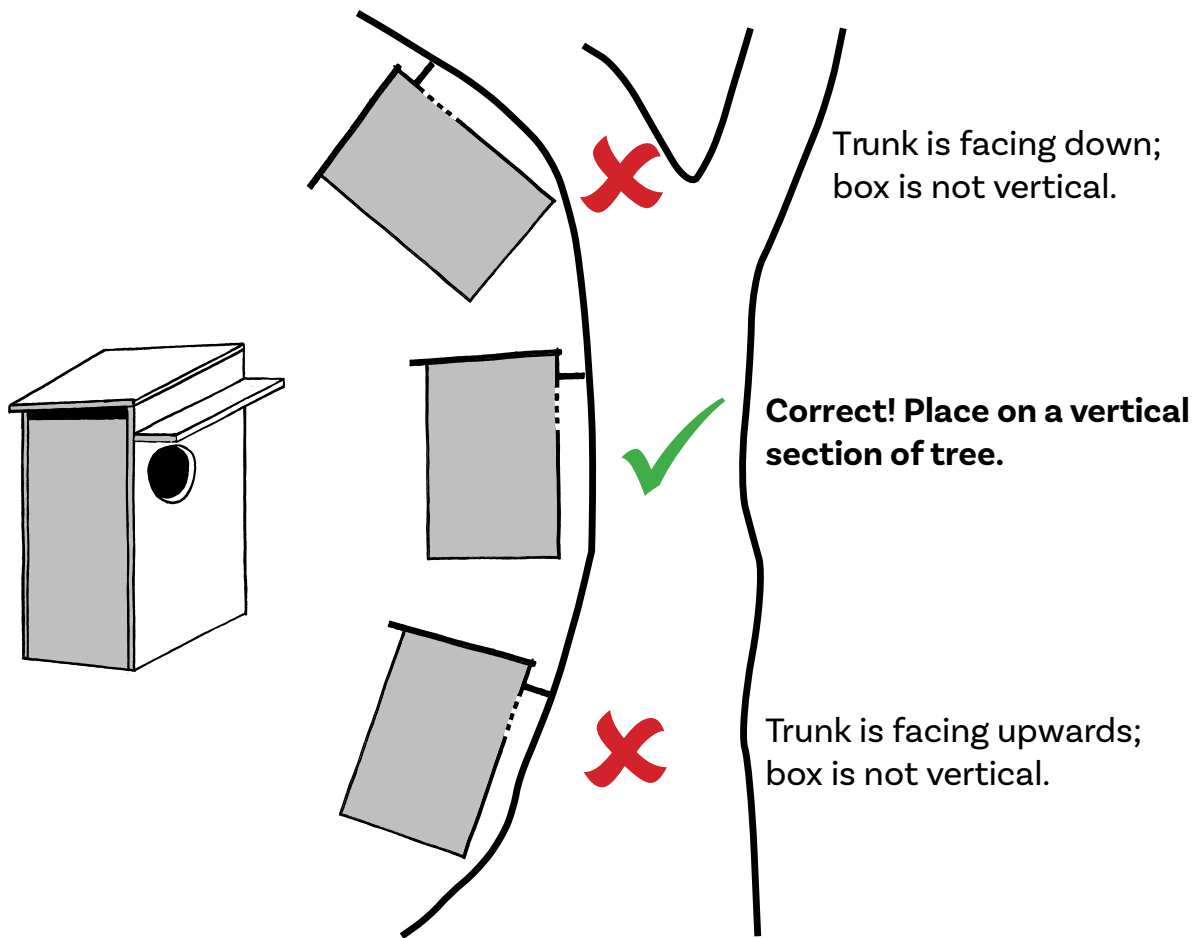
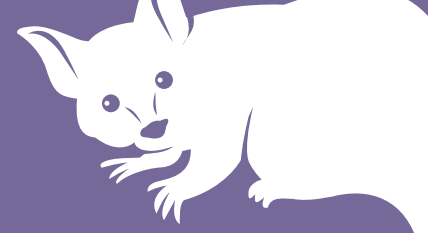
3m high ladder.

## Positioning

- ✓ Place on a sturdy tree trunk or branch capable of supporting the box's weight (at least 20cm in diameter).
- ✓ Place about 3m off the ground to protect the nest from ground predators.
- ✓ Where possible, place the box on the south-eastern side of a tree to keep the box as cool as possible on hot days.
- ✓ Place near to branch forks to encourage possum use of the box.
- ✓ Place the box on a tree with canopy overhead to help shade the box and stop it from overheating in summer.
- ✓ Install on a vertically straight part of the tree to ensure the box is not tipping upwards or downwards.
- ✓ Choose a location that you can access safely with a ladder.
- ✗ Avoid placing in noisy locations such as near busy roads, your driveway or locations that are often disturbed by people.



# Possum Box



**Figure 13:** Ensure you install your possum box on a vertical section of the tree.

## Installation

1. Use a ladder to reach the location where you will secure the possum box to the tree. You may like to ask another person to steady the ladder for safety.
2. Following the instructions of the box supplier, attach the box to the tree so that it is vertical, steady and securely fastened to the tree. Ensure the entry to the box faces the tree.
3. Ensure the box is secure and will not fall if a possum uses it.

## Tips

- A small telescopic mirror (available for \$6 at Bunnings: Crafright Inspection Telescopic Mirror; Product Code (I/N): 5810236) may help you check your box during monitoring.
- Following heavy rain or a storm it is a good idea to check the box hasn't shifted position or collected water inside. If you notice any water inside, you may need to reposition the box.
- Please don't remove any nests from the box, even if you think they have been abandoned.

# Why This Design?

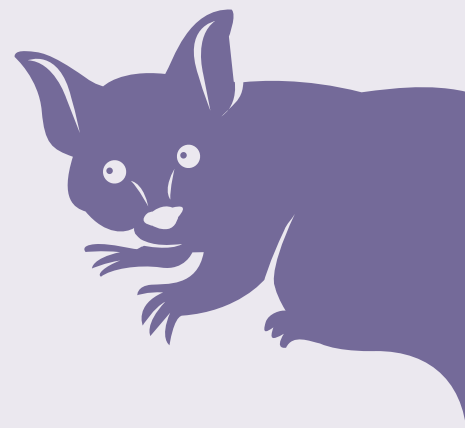


Figure 14: Possum box from The Re-cyc-ology Project. Image taken from The Re-cyc-ology Project website.



This nest box will **fit both of the large possum species** found in southwestern Australia.

The box has **thick walls (around 20mm)** to protect it from becoming too hot or cold for possums.

The box uses **water-based exterior paint** which is less likely to be toxic to animals than oil-based paints or varnish and will extend the box's life.

The box has a **weatherproof** design to maintain a safe, dry and warm environment.

The box has **drainage holes** to prevent any moisture build-up inside the box.

The box **contains a ladder** inside which allows both target and non-target species to safely exit the box at any time.

The box has **air-slots** under the lid to provide ventilation and reduce the chance of feral bees invading.