

## How to attach your nest box to a tree

**Equipment you will need:** Nest box, coarse woodchips from natural timber, pliers, multi-strand clothesline wire, hosepipe, ladder, scissors/stanley knife

## Part 1: Preparing the wire

- 1. Select the spot you want to attach your box using *Guide 3: Garden Structure Installation Manual* to help you. It is handy to select a spot that has a branch on the opposite side of the tree to where you plan to place your box. This branch will help stop your box sliding down the tree.
- 2. After selecting your spot, measure a length of hosepipe approximately long enough to go around the trunk of the tree when on a 45° angle. Cut your hose pipe to length.
- 3. Use your cut hosepipe to measure the wire, which should be double the length of the hosepipe. Cut your wire to length.
- 4. Make a loop in one end of the wire using your pliers by bending a kink in it and then twisting it a few times until secure (see *A* on page 2).
- 5. Thread the non-looped end of the wire through one of the pre-drilled holes in the back of the box, and reaching inside, pull it entirely though until the loop is hard up against the back of the box (see **B** on page 2).
- 6. Thread the non-looped end of the wire through the other pre-drilled hole on the other side of the box and pull it tight (see  $\mathcal{C}$  on page 2). Both ends of the wire should now be out the back of the box.
- 7. Thread the loose end of the wire through the hosepipe until it emerges from the other end (see *D* on page 2). The hosepipe should be roughly central on the wire so that it will protect the tree from damage (see **E** on page 2).





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## Part 2: Attaching to the tree

- 1. Add a 100 mm layer of woodchips to line the inside floor of the nest box.
- 2. Getting someone to hold your ladder steady, climb to where you plan to fasten your box to the tree. The protruding wire with hosepipe should be facing the tree.
- 3. Pass the wire with the hosepipe around the back of the tree, placing the wire above the horizontal/oblique branch on the opposite side of the tree to stop the box slipping down.
- 4. Thread the non-looped end of the wire through the wire loop at the back of your box (See *A* on page 4). There should be about a 10cm gap between the loop and hosepipe (see *B* on page 4).
- 5. Use your pliers to bend and twist the wire back around itself so that the wire will hold the box's weight without slipping (see *B* on page 4).
- 6. Thread the loose end of the wire back into the hosepipe (see C on page 4). Your box should now be fastened as shown in D and E on page 4.
- 7. Give the box a gentle shake to make sure it is hanging straight and securely on the tree. The wire will hang at a  $45^{\circ}$  angle but the box should be vertical on the tree as seen in F on page 4.
- 8. Admire your box and then monitor as described in Guide 2: Wildlife Monitoring Manual!

