



Butterflies, bees, moths and other pollinating insects are industrious and important. Carrying pollen from plant to plant is vital to our food supply. A single honeybee may visit over 2,000 flowers in a day. All that hard work leaves pollinators thirsty. They risk drowning in birdbaths and swimming pools or being eaten by predators at rivers and ponds as they try to find water. You can help by providing fresh water in a safe place.

Pollinator Puddling Station

A puddling station can be as simple as a rock in an old pie plate, set out in a shady spot, and filled with water. Or you can have fun, get creative, and upcycle old dishes into a work of functional art! Make your yard buzz-worthy with a bee-dazzling puddling station!

Steps:

1. Choose a glass, china, pottery, or food grade plastic dish for a basin. A shallow dish requires fresh water daily. A deep dish holds more water but requires more material for insects to safely stand on. Use our examples to spark your imagination. Put your “no longer needed” dishes to new use.

2. Gather pebbles, rocks, shells, marbles (a good use for your collections!) or floating items such as corks, sponges, or plastic scouring pad. These provide a safe place for insects to stand while they drink.



3. This step is optional but takes your station to a new level. Add a base or stand. Raising your puddling station offers protection from predators and allows you to watch the happy visitors come and go. Use a glue suitable for the material you are working with to attach the basin to the base. (a construction grade, waterproof adhesive like Gorilla Clear Grip, E6000, Loctite Power Grab) Follow the instructions on the label.

4. Place your water station in a cool, shady spot or near insect friendly flowers.

5. Fill with water. Be sure there are dry landing spots for your visitors. Keep the water full and fresh. Rinse weekly to remove any mosquito eggs.

Note: Never add honey to the water. It can contain spores of a bacteria called *Paenibacillus* which is deadly to bees. No sugar either, it just not good for anyone.



The familiar honeybee is one of 4000 different types of bees in North America. While we carevforvand protect our honeybees, wild bees are on their own and they are in serious trouble.

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