



## BUILDING A LOG PILE

Surface-feeding earthworms feed on leaf-litter and dead wood but these are often tidied away by gardeners and even in the countryside – reducing the food and habitat available for these type of earthworms.

You can help build a home for earthworms and other minibeasts in your garden by creating a log pile.

As well as earthworms log piles provide a home and food for fungi, woodlice, beetles and spiders. They may also shelter small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Many of these animals can be beneficial in your garden, for example many beetles and amphibians eat slugs!

### Where to put your log pile

Find a shady area so the log pile remains cool and damp – ideal conditions for earthworms.

### What wood to use

Hardwood such as beech, oak and ash are better than conifers and logs at least 10 cm thick with the bark still on provide the best habitat.

Don't remove logs from the wild as it benefits wildlife there, and may be illegal to take without permission. Instead ask friends or relatives who are having tree work done, or your local tree-surgeon, to donate logs.

### Assembling your log pile

Place the logs in direct contact with the ground and in compact piles to maintain humidity or partially bury the logs vertically in the ground.

Adding leaf litter to the pile will increase the food available for earthworms and other animals.

### Looking after your log pile

You can turn over logs or look under the bark occasionally to see what earthworms and other animals are living there, but try not to disturb the pile too much!

As the wood decomposes into the ground you can top it up with more logs.

# Earthworms for a better Earth!