

DENK BUMBLEBEE-HOUSE

The *Bumblebee-House* is designed to meet the needs of bumblebees; it is a two-piece structure with an insulated base plate, made entirely of ceramic, frost-resistant, and sturdy. The blue-painted entrance around the flight hole attracts bumblebees. In the fall, bumblebees overwinter in the *Bumblebee-House*, and in the spring, they build their nest inside it. An access tube is built into the interior to protect against wax moths. Nesting wool made from natural kapok fiber, sufficient for 5 years, is included.

Bumblebees are among the most important pollinating insects. Their tolerance to temperature extremes allows them to forage for food for much longer than bees. Unlike bees, bumblebees visit flowers even in bad weather. This ability to ensure pollination even during damp and cool summers makes them vital allies for many plant species, including numerous varieties of fruits and vegetables. There are 70 species of bumblebees in Europe, 36 of which are found in German-speaking regions. Bumblebees are protected in Germany under the Federal Nature Conservation Act. Various human interventions in nature are destroying many of their nesting sites.

As a result, they are forced to colonize less suitable spots or locations in or near human dwellings, where they are often driven out or even killed as unwanted lodgers. The *Bumblebee-House* provides these beneficial insects with a nesting site that closely resembles their natural habitat. They can be specifically introduced into the garden. When placed directly on the garden ground, the entrance to the *Bumblebee-House* should face east. Its heavy base plate protects it from ground moisture. The ceramic house is then placed on top of this base plate.

Place about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the included nesting wool inside the hive. The nesting wool will last for about 5 years. To prevent the nest from overheating, the bumblebee hive must never be exposed to direct midday sun. Ideal locations are those that receive only morning sun and are later shaded by trees and shrubs.

In the spring, when the queen awakens from her winter hibernation, she flies close to the ground in search of a suitable location for her nest. Since bumblebees are attracted to the color blue, the entrance to the *Bumblebee-House* is painted accordingly. In the fall, the bumblebee colony dies off and the young queens seek out winter quarters. The *Bumblebee-House* is also very well suited for this purpose. To prepare for hibernation, the nesting material should be removed and the interior of the *Bumblebee-House* should be roughly cleaned with water.

An additional layer of soft padding, such as sheep's wool, ensures survival through the winter. Our *Bumblebee-House* is made of particularly hard-fired *Granicum*[®] or *CeraNatur*[®] ceramic. These special ceramics are impact- and shock-resistant and help regulate the climate. Since they are permanently frost-resistant, they do not absorb moisture and do not become saturated. The *Bumblebee-House* thus offers its inhabitants a safe and dry home all year round.

Bumblebee-House *Granicum*[®] / *CeraNatur*[®]

Ø 27cm | H 16cm | 5,5kg

Denk Keramische Werkstätten

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