

Building possum nesting boxes

- Nesting boxes not only create homes for native wildlife, but they encourage them out of unwanted places like your roof.
- Research shows that catching and relocating possums results in very high mortality rates. This is due to the resident possums aggressively guarding their territory against new possums. Please note, it is illegal, without a permit, to trap and relocate a possum from your property.
- When building a possum box to encourage possums out of a roof space, wait for the possums to colonise the nesting boxes and seal up the roof space. If the possums are hesitant to leave the roof after waiting a reasonable amount of time, wait until they naturally leave to collect food and block the re-entry space. Be sure that no possums, including babies, are trapped before sealing the roof space.
- **Brushtail possum** populations will not build up; they are a territorial species that will drive other possums away.
- **Ringtail possums** are not usually found in roof spaces, as they nest in hollows or thickets of branches. They may move between different nests, and need to stay high to avoid vulnerability to cats and dogs. For this reason, hanging ropes between trees (especially those with nesting boxes) will give them a safe passage off the ground.

Construction notes;

1. Create the box using the dimensions shown here.
2. A ladder made of mesh, as shown here (placed inside the box), will give young a way to climb out of the box.
3. Drill 3 evenly spread holes into the base to allow for drainage (approx. 5mm in diameter)
4. Secure the possum box in a way that will prevent it from falling when weight is applied.
5. Possum boxes should be secured at least 4 meters from the ground, safely out of reach of predators.

