How to Build a Fairy or Gnome Home

Why build fairy houses? As Tracy Kane, author and illustrator of the Fairy House book series, writes: “*the simple challenge of creating a fairy house gives children a unique activity that encourages them to go outside and connect with the natural world, nurturing care and respect for the environment.”*

Legend has it that if you build a fairy or gnome home and bring it to your yard, you just might attract a fairy or gnome.

**Grab a grown up and hike through the woods or along the beach with a gathering basket**

Please try to use mostly natural materials – feathers, dry grasses, leaves, sticks, pebbles, shells, bark from a fallen tree, milkweed, moss, nuts, pods, acorns, berries, gourds, miniature pumpkins, pinecones.

All fairy houses should appear to be made **mostly**of natural components. Hot glue, acrylic spray, natural twine and other man-made items are okay for use

Please do not disturb any live trees or plant life for your home.

**Start with a strong foundation:**

Platforms or man-made support materials are encouraged for easier delivery and transport; we suggest concealing them with natural materials when installed on-site.

**Form the outside of the house**

Houses may be any size and the theme of the house may be anything you wish.

After you line your foundation, pick out the main structure. A stump, driftwood, shells, twigs, wicker basket or other fairy / gnome friendly container. Make sure it will fit comfortably on the tray with room for add-ons (a porch) and embellishments (a garden or play area).

Create the enhancements. Start with the large outdoor pieces (doors, windows and paths) and then add the finer outdoor details like mailboxes, shrubs and swings.

Please do not use any items of value in the houses.

**Decorate the inside of the fairy / gnome house**

Once the outside is finished, build fairy furniture, shelves, beds and even tiny bathrooms and kitchens.

Lay down a floor of moss, and then add furniture you found, built or re purposed from other objects.

For Inspiration: FairyGnomeDiscoveryWalk.Weebly.com