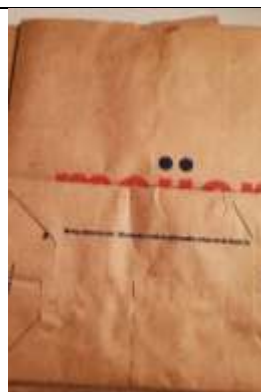


How to roll 6-inch paper tubes for Bee B&Bs (bee hotels) using a pencil

Mason bees need paper tubes that are the width of a pencil to fly in and lay their eggs. Anything wider invites the wrong kind of bees and wasps.



1. Use brown grocery bags or brown craft paper. Best to use grocery bags with less artwork on them, like Meijer and D&W (Trader Joe's has too much on it).
2. If your sheet of paper has any artwork on it, place it on the inside so the art isn't showing on the outside of the tube after it's rolled.
3. Cut off the bottom of the bag and handles (if any). Cut down the side seam of the bag so you'll have 2 long pieces of paper. Using a paper cutter, cut 6 inch x 6 inch pieces.



4. Place a pencil at the bottom of the paper and carefully roll up. Do your best to roll it straight. You may have to restart it a few times.



5. When you have about 1-inch left of paper, apply Elmer's School Glue (this glue is recommended by the Kalamazoo Bee Club). Then finish rolling and hold it in place to help the end of the paper stay closed. You may have to run your fingers up and down the tube to make sure the end stays and dries closed.
6. I have tried using Elmer's glue sticks but depending on the thickness of the paper, it doesn't stay glued.



7. Apply paper clips at the ends to help the tube dry closed. You may have to apply a little more glue on the outside so the flap has another chance to dry flat.
8. If your ends are telescoping (due to the difficulty of rolling evenly), you can cut the telescoping excess off the end. Make sure your finished tube is still 6 inches long (or very close to it).

