



Indoor Barn Owl Nest Box from
Cheep Nestboxes
Guidelines



Thank you for choosing a Cheep Nestboxes Indoor Barn Owl Nest Box. These guidelines will help you position your nest box in the best possible location for maximum usage potential and ensure the safety and security of any occupants.

Locating Your Box

Ideal Barn Owl habitat is one of open farmland with rough, thick, tussocky grass with a deep litter-layer, which will hold a substantial population of prey species.

Almost any tall building within such habitat, with permanent access at a height of AT LEAST 3 meters, is the ideal location for an indoor nest box. Buildings in use are acceptable, as Barn Owls will tolerate surprisingly-high levels of activity, as long as they can remain out of sight, but avoid structures that are likely to experience irregular, loud disturbances.

Place the box as high as possible within the building (AT LEAST 3 meters above the ground), but bear in mind the considerations below and that you will need to be able to remove the lid for cleaning.

The box should be positioned so that any owls entering the building through the most obvious opening can see the entrance hole and have a clear 'flight path' to it. Ideally, the box should be placed with the 'tray' above a beam or other flat surface for emerging owlets to walk out onto.

The box should be positioned in a totally dry position to ensure maximum longevity.

If your intended building does not have permanent access, this can be created by making an entrance hole as follows:

- Make the hole 12cm wide x 25cm high and AT LEAST 3 meters above ground level
- Do not face the hole towards a nearby tree or tall building
- Choose the least-disturbed side of an occupied building, converted barn or busy farmyard, facing an open area of ideal habitat (see above).

AVOID **ANY** LOCATION WITHIN 1km OF MOTORWAYS, DUAL-CARRIAGEWAYS OR MAJOR TRUNK ROADS!

Cleaning Your Box

The internal depth of your nest box is important to stop Barn Owl nestlings falling out and dying as a result of neglect or predation. For this reason, your box should be cleaned out once 80mm of nest debris has built up on the bottom. This would normally be after two or three years of occupation by Barn Owls. If, however, Jackdaws have used the box, it should be cleaned out at the end of that breeding season.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is an OFFENCE to disturb breeding Barn Owls, so the inspection hatch should ONLY be used for the purpose of cleaning and NOT for observing nests/nestlings during the breeding season!

Cleaning should take place between November and January.

Your Safety

Please work safely and if possible not alone whilst erecting your nest box, and carry out a reconnaissance visit to assess any potential hazards before undertaking the work.

When cleaning out your nest box, it is advised that gloves and a mask are worn at all times.

We hope your Cheep Nestboxes Indoor Barn Owl Nest Box brings you pleasure and is used successfully for many years to come.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any comments or questions about our product and please do let us know if it is successfully used.

Thank you again for your purchase from Cheep Nestboxes and we look forward to seeing you again.

Kindest regards,

Cheep Nestboxes

It's not just the birds that are going 'cheep'

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