

CONNECT WITH NATURE

# LIZARD LOUNGE

Reptiles, including lizards, are often overlooked when habitat gardening, but they are an important part of our ecosystem and provide a natural way to control pests such as insects, larvae, snails, and slugs in your garden or veggie patch.

Australia has close to 1,000 species of reptiles, 93% of which are endemic, meaning they are found nowhere else in the world. Unfortunately, around a quarter of our reptile population is considered threatened due to population decline caused by habitat loss and degradation, as well as predation by feral animals such as foxes.



**Bearded Dragon**  
Photo by James Ratcliff

You can help our reptile population by attracting lizards to your garden with a lizard lounge!

Keep a lookout at home and see if you can spot some of the common backyard lizards pictured above and below:



**Blue Tongue Lizard**  
Photo by Yanik Armstrong



**Eastern Water Skink**  
Photo by Nat Carroll



**Eastern Water Dragon**  
Photo by Debbie Simmonds



**Lace Monitor**  
Photo by Isabelle Robertson



## How do I build a lizard lounge?

Use this activity guide to create your own lizard lounge which is a perfect place for our scaly friends to find shelter so they can hide, sleep and be protected from weather and predators.

### Step 1

Locate a suitable position in your garden to create your lizard lounge. This may be a mulched section, a sandy spot, bare soil, or you may clear grass from a small area.

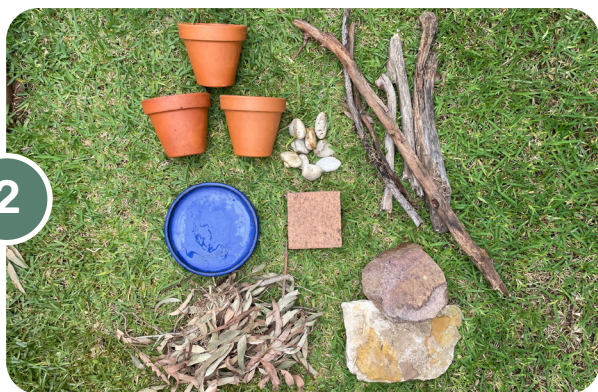
Remember to choose an area that receives a lot of midday sunlight and is away from pets that could disturb or harm the lizards.

Keep your pets locked inside at night or enclose the area with wire mesh so they can't get in.

### Step 2

Collect all the materials you will need to create a lizard lounge. You can get creative and reuse materials from around your home and garden, which could include:

- Natural leaf litter
- Fallen branches and twigs
- Hollowed logs
- Pieces of ceramics or terracotta pots
- Small water container
- Bricks
- Slate or stone tiles
- Stones, pebbles, and rocks
- Mulch
- Dried grass
- Native plants



### Step 3

Arrange pots and ceramics in the lizard lounge area to act as shelter from weather and predators.

Remember lizards like dry homes, so angle them downwards or place them at higher points to allow any rainwater to drain freely.



### Step 4

Don't forget a sunbathing spot as lizards do not produce their own body heat.

Place a slate tile, brick or flat rock to allow lizards to bask in the sun and warm their bodies.



### Step 5

Include a small container for accessible drinking water weighted with rocks or pebbles to act as stepping stones.

Remember to check on this water regularly and refill with fresh water as needed.





## Step 6

Scatter natural materials like twigs, sand and leaf litter throughout the area so lizards can easily camouflage with the environment and hide from predators.

Make sure to add a rough stone or log so lizards can exfoliate when it is time for them to shed their skin.



## Step 7

The more native plants nearby the better. Plant some of the following around your lizard lounge for extra habitat and protection:

- Blue Flax Lilly (*Dianella longifolia*);
- Purple Coral Pea (*Hardenbergia violacea*);
- Spiny-headed Mat-Rush (*Lomandra longifolia*);
- Native Violet (*Viola hederacea*);
- Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*);
- Weeping Grass (*Microleana stipoides*);
- Wallaby Grass (*Austrodanthonia* spp.); and
- Assorted Grevilleas and Bottlebrush (*Callistemon* spp.).



Purple Coral Pea (*Hardenbergia violacea*)



Spiny-headed Mat-rush (*Lomandra longifolia*)



Native Violet (*Viola hederacea*)



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## Here's a tip!

Council has a **Native Garden Guide** which you can view to get inspiration for other suitable native species to plant in your garden, as well as other ways to help local wildlife.

Download your copy from our website [bit.ly/nativegardenguide](https://bit.ly/nativegardenguide).