



# Swift Box Installation – FAQs

## **How high should a swift box be installed?**

Ideally 5 metres (16 ft) or higher. Lower can work if there is a very clear drop below the entrance.

## **Which direction should the box face?**

North or east is best to avoid overheating. Avoid south- or west-facing walls unless well shaded.

## **Can I put a swift box near trees or wires?**

No – the entrance needs a clear, open flight path.

## **When is the best time to install a box?**

September to March is ideal, outside the breeding season.

## **How long before swifts use it?**

It can take 1–3 years. Once occupied, swifts often return every year.

## **Does the box need to be angled?**

No – keep it level or very slightly tilted back. Never tilt it forward.

## **Do swifts need a perch?**

No – perches aren't needed and shouldn't be added.

## **Should I install more than one box?**

Yes, if you can. Swifts are social birds – space boxes 30–50 cm apart.

## **Do boxes need cleaning?**

Generally no. If checking is needed, only do this outside the breeding season.

## **Is it legal to open or move a nest box?**

Installing boxes is fine, but never open or disturb a box during the nesting season. Swifts and their nests are legally protected.

## **What if swifts don't use the box?**

Be patient – good placement is key, and it can take time for birds to discover new sites.