



General Advice on installing Swift Nest Boxes

lewesswifts@gmail.com

Thank you for your enquiry to Lewes Swift Supporters, (LSS), about your wish to purchase and/or install one or more Swift nest boxes on your property. We are a group of volunteers who have installed almost 200 nest boxes in Lewes since we began in 2019.

If you **live in Lewes** and would like further advice, we can arrange for someone to visit your home to advise you on the best place to locate your box(es). Please email us with your exact address and we will reply to arrange a date to visit.

Once we have visited a property and ensured that there is a suitable site for a box, and, unless scaffolding is present, access for a long ladder, we add your details to our list of people ready for the next batch of installations. When we have enough people on the list, we engage an insured and experienced builder to come with us and help to install the box or boxes.

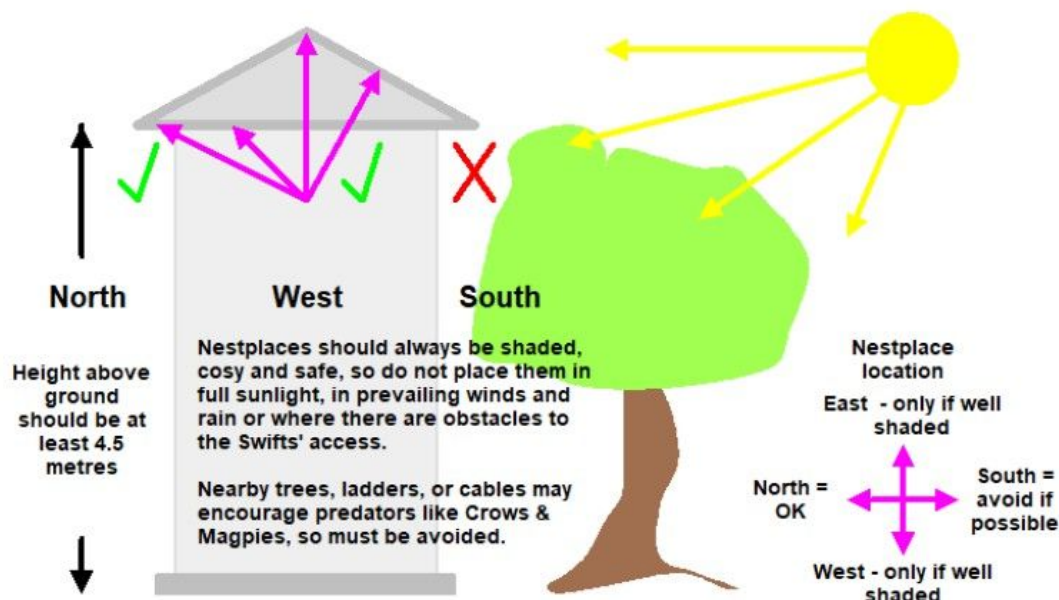
Costs

The price of Swift boxes varies but, at the time of writing, a single Peak box costs £48 and a double Peak box costs £84, (excluding delivery). The charge for installation is £25 for a single box and £30 for a double box.

If we consider that your property is near an existing colony, and there is a reasonable chance of occupation to expand the colony, we may agree that LSS can fund the box and installation using our funding from grant applications and donations.

You can greatly increase the chance that your box(es) will be occupied by Swifts if you follow certain guidelines. For example, Swifts are more likely to occupy your box if:

- it is on the North-facing side of your property
- it is at least 4.5m above the ground
- it has a reasonably clear flight path into the box, (no wires, trees, etc., in front of the box).



If the only available wall is not on the North side but reasonably shaded, for example, through deep eaves, that would be a possibility too. Some of the Lewes Swifts choose to nest under eaves which face in other directions!

The boxes we generally recommend are from Peak Boxes, and various designs are available, for example single, double, triple, for an apex, or for a corner, and with or without a “bat back” to provide roosting space for bats.

- See: <https://peakboxes.co.uk/shop-swift-boxes>

Being gregarious, the chances of swifts occupying the box(es) are increased if you play a swift call for a couple of hours a day from May to the end of July. Callers are available from

- Peak Boxes: <https://peakboxes.co.uk/shop-sound-systems>
- Swift Conservation: <https://swift-conservation.org/Shopping%21.htm>

Here is a link to more detailed advice from Swift Conservation:

https://www.swift-conservation.org/Leaflet_1_Swifts_Nest-boxes_at_Your_Home-small.pdf

Swifts are **very clean birds**, and they do not leave deposits of droppings outside the nest box, as House Martins and some other birds do. The parent birds eat most of the chicks’ droppings, possibly for their mineral content, so the nests do not require cleaning out at the end of each season.

These pages on our website may also give you useful information about Swift boxes, Swift callers and when to play them, and other ways in which you might help Swifts:

[How can we help Swifts? - Lewes Swift Supporters \(e-voice.org.uk\)](https://e-voice.org.uk/how-can-we-help-swifts/)

[Swift calling systems - Lewes Swift Supporters \(e-voice.org.uk\)](https://e-voice.org.uk/swift-calling-systems/)

Yours faithfully,

Audrey Jarvis

Secretary, Lewes Swift Supporters

Lewes – a Swift-friendly Town! <https://e-voice.org.uk/lewesswiftsupporters/lewes-a-swift-friendly-town/>

