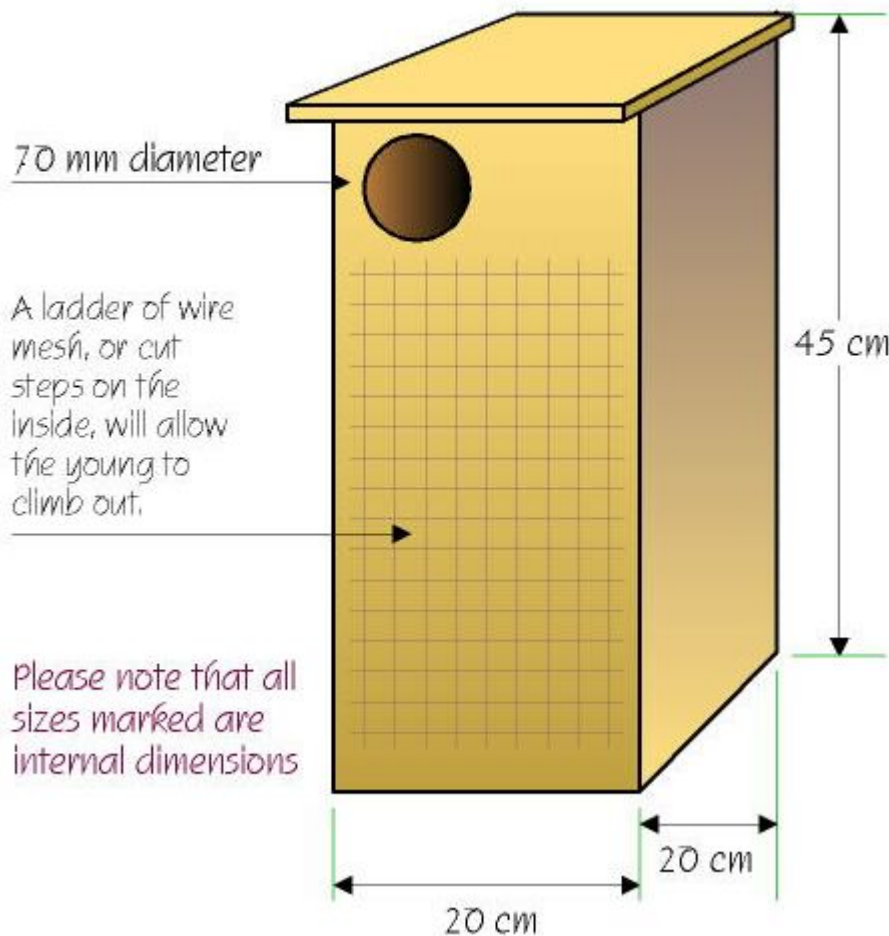


Ringtail Possum Nestbox



The best materials for construction are either; 3 cm thick plantation pine (hardwood is a product of native forest), or structural pine plywood. There is of course no need to use expensive dressed timber. Rough sawn or even second hand timber is ideal. Just make sure if using second hand, that it is free of nails, and any unknown paint. Your box is best screwed rather than nailed together, and may be finished off with filler in any gaps, a coat of primer, undercoat, and lastly a dull acrylic finish. The roof can either be hinged conventionally, or simply make an outside hinge out of a piece of old rubber, which also helps to make it weatherproof. A couple off cuts on the inside of the roof to prevent slippage, and either mesh, or a few thin strips of off cut baton on the inside front to allow the youngsters to climb out.

Where to place it? Choose your position carefully. Think about which side of your house takes the brunt of cold wind, and driving rain. (how comfortable would you be with an open wall on that side?) Face the entrance away from prevailing winds, and make sure that the box will have plenty of shade during the hottest part of the day.

Hang from the chosen tree by a piece of wire threaded through a scrap piece of garden hose (so that it doesn't cut into the tree), or alternatively, nailed to the tree using 2 strips of galvanised steel. The strips need only go halfway round the tree to allow for growth, and to prevent ring barking.

FOR RINGTAIL POSSUMS, you need to position the box at least 3 metres above the ground.

Don't be disappointed or surprised if no one takes up residence immediately. It can sometimes take weeks, or even months, for someone to show some interest. There are many reasons for this: The box is 'too new', unfamiliar. It looks and smells new and out of place. Give it time to 'weather in'. To become part of the local landscape.

Information taken from www.tvwc.com.au