

Guidelines and recommendations for Faerie Homes & Gardens entries

The goal of a Faerie Home & Garden entry is to construct a miniature habitat that could be home to a real woodland creature. The magic is to have everything to scale; think very small. Through the construction process you will experience landscape design and getting closer to nature. Faerie Homes & Gardens, though small in size, are huge in possibilities!

Base & core materials:

Mounting your home to a base up to 4' square in size is a good thing to do if you have miniature items and outdoor features, such as ponds, swings, gardens, fountains or glass bead streams. Tree cookies (a cross section of a tree stump) or plywood are both strong materials to serve as a base. The most popular homes use natural materials as the core of the structure, such as tree stumps, hollowed logs, large branch, or chunks of tree bark from a decaying tree. If you choose to use manmade materials as a base, make sure it is completely covered by natural materials such as pebbles, moss, or shells. Having multiple layers of plant and natural materials to mask the underlying structure is key keeping your structure from being discovered.

Adhesives:

The trick with adhesives is to avoid moisture getting behind the materials you attach. Not all types of adhesives work; we have seen and experienced glue failures done by wood glue, Elmer's glue, and hot glue guns. If you're attaching items to a porous material, you may want to spray on a product to seal the pores first, such as with Outdoor ModPodge. The more resilient adhesives are silicone caulk, polyurethane, but these require extended cure times.

Plant materials:

Families and designers really enjoy using sticks, twigs, seed pods and acorn caps for crafting faerie furniture, such as benches, swinging chairs, tables, tea sets, chandeliers, ladders, and fencing. Be aware that most of the construction that includes nuts and berries gets carried away by animals. Staff will remove any seeds of invasive species.

Plant species:

The care of faerie home landscaping will be very limited. Any live plants installed will need to have your weekly attention, or be able to thrive with limited water such as cacti, succulents, & drought-tolerant herbs.

Installation:

You will be contacted at the beginning of May to schedule a time to install your faerie home on Saturday, May 14th. If this date does not work well for you, you can notify us when we contact you to arrange another time before the Woodland Faerie Trail opens on May 16th. We recommend bringing a cart or wagon along to assist you with moving your home from your vehicle to your assigned site.