



# Window Nest Box #6948

## Product Use and Care Guide

***Please open and inspect all items upon receipt. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us immediately.***



### Quality Commitment

Thank you for your shared commitment to connecting children with nature and your support of children's life-long learning. Nature Explore is dedicated to providing quality, research-based educational materials for your outdoor spaces, as well as outdoor classroom design services and educator workshops.

Our natural products are field-tested by trained educators who observe children using them in play—focusing on safety, educational-value and versatility—prior to being offered in the Resource Guide. Our natural products, such as wooden instruments, tables or balance beams, are hand-crafted by trusted professionals who support our shared mission. All natural products are constructed of materials carefully selected for functionality, safety and durability.

We encourage you to contact us with questions or for more information on our natural products and services. If inquiring about a past or existing order, please have your order number handy (Ex: SO90001234) so we may answer your questions and provide additional information as needed. **All of our warranty, return and exchange policies can be found online or sent by request. Please contact us at [service@natureexplore.org](mailto:service@natureexplore.org) or 1-888-908-8733.**

*All items created by and manufactured exclusively for Nature Explore are done so in accordance with all relevant and applicable safety standards and recommendations as set forth by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and ASTM International. Be sure to consider additional regulations that may be unique to your site.*

# How to Use your Window Nest Box



***Fun and educational for children. Watch nesting birds from within your house or organization.***

***Read below for helpful hints and long-term maintenance guidance.***

- This Window Nest Box should be located on a 1st floor window with trees or shrubs close by to provide cover for nesting birds as they enter and exit the nest box.
- An unshaded location with full sunlight may be too hot for nestings. An East facing window provides the best location for your Window Nest Box.
- Nesting birds need privacy. Keep the window shade behind the nest box closed except when observing nesting activities.
- 100% silicone suction cups will stick to a clean window indefinitely, if applied correctly. **The window must be freshly cleaned immediately before installation.** Suction cups should be freshly washed with warm soapy water, rinsed and dried, immediately before installation.
- Suction cups should then be **very lightly moistened** with a very small amount of kitchen oil, which will not evaporate as water (or saliva) would.

## Maintenance

***Window Nest Boxes are NOT weater-proof.*** You may want to treat this product with a commercial wood-protector or water-seal every year or two years to extend the life of the product.

- Left untreated, your Window Nest Box should last 7-10 years and will attain a weathered patina over time and age just like barn board.
- The most important thing you can do to preserve the functionality of this product over time is to clean it seasonally, with a brush, a light soap solution, perhaps a light bleach solution and a thorough rinse.
- Should a consumer wish to paint or stain their product, care must be taken not to use a petroleum based product. Apply a paint or stain only on the outside of the product. Check with local building codes, playground experts, and wood preservation experts for the local rules and regulations and to ask what would work best to use around children and birds.

## Important Facts About Natural Wood Products

Nature Explore field-tested components are made of natural materials that bring children in close contact with the beautiful patterns and colors of nature. In the resources created from wood, you will notice graining, knots, checking (a natural cracking process that occurs as wood releases moisture across the annual growth rings), and in rare instances, insects. This is not a defect in the product, but a natural process that should be expected. Additionally, unfinished wood will naturally develop a beautiful silvery-gray patina over time.

Below are some examples of what you may encounter and can expect with your order:

### Natural Cracking and Checking



### Knots, Branches, Etc.



Nature Explore items such as Tree Cookies, Natural Balance Beams, Marimbas, At-Ease Benches, etc. are natural, untreated wood products and require regularly scheduled, routine maintenance in order to enhance safety and extend the life of the item.

Your Nature Explore product should be inspected often to ensure that any cracks are not resulting in splinters. Any splinters should be sanded down immediately. Also, as your Nature Explore product becomes acclimated to your local environment, there is a chance that mold discoloration will appear. You can reduce this risk by ensuring the product is installed on a surface with adequate drainage (i.e. mulch, gravel, etc.). Installing on grass surfaces allows moisture to be trapped underneath the product and is not recommended.

Routine sanding of the top, sides, and interior (if applicable) surfaces of the item will minimize splinters, reduce the chance of mold, and extend the life of your Nature Explore product. Additionally, there are a variety of treatment options you can use to extend the life of your Nature Explore product. Please consult a local expert (i.e. wood-working expert, general contractor, lumber yard, parks & recreation department, etc.) to see what options are appropriate and safe in your particular area.