How Do Bugs Hibernate?

Geese fly south for the winter... squirrels snack on acorns between long winter's naps...
bears get cozy in their dens... but what about bugs? You might think that tiny insects
wouldn't survive the winter, but many have their own unique ways of weathering the cold.
Below, learn how bugs survive the winter.



Butterflies

Butterflies, like the Monarch butterfly, take a vacation when the weather gets cold. Like many birds, they migrate south, traveling up to 100 miles per day!

Spiders

Have you ever noticed more spiders indoors during the winter? That's because they don't like the cold! When the temperature drops, spiders head indoors to make their webs.



Ants

Ants make their homes in logs and underground tunnels year-round, which help them survive the cold. When the temperature drops, they stay hidden away in their tunnels.



Ladybugs undergo diapause, a type of hibernation that allows them to survive off their own energy reserves for up to 9 months!



Moths

Many adult moths die when the weather gets cold, but their eggs overwinter in diapause (just like ladybugs!) and hatch in the spring. If you see a moth flying around in the wintertime, it may be one of a few species that have adapted to the cold!

Snails

What does a snail have in common with a bear? They both hibernate in the winter! Snails seal up the opening of their shells with mucus and get cozy under leaves and dirt for a long winter's nap.

Worms

Worms are also similar to bears and snails - they hibernate by tunneling deep underground, covering themselves with slime, and waiting out the cold. They also do something similar during the extra-dry summer months!



Honey Bees

When it gets cold, honey bees group together inside their hives to stay warm.



The worker bees vibrate their bodies to generate heat. In fact, temperatures can reach 100 degrees at the center of the cluster where the queen lives!

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