



# Possum Box Construction & Installation



In nature possums live in tree hollows or in self-made nests called a drey. Many of these homes have been destroyed as a result of the decline in natural bushland. Sometimes they seek safe shelter in your roof. They are territorial animals and are not easily relocated. Victoria protects its Possums by law and any attempt to remove them from your area is illegal. You will need to provide an alternative home to ensure the possum does not move into your roof.

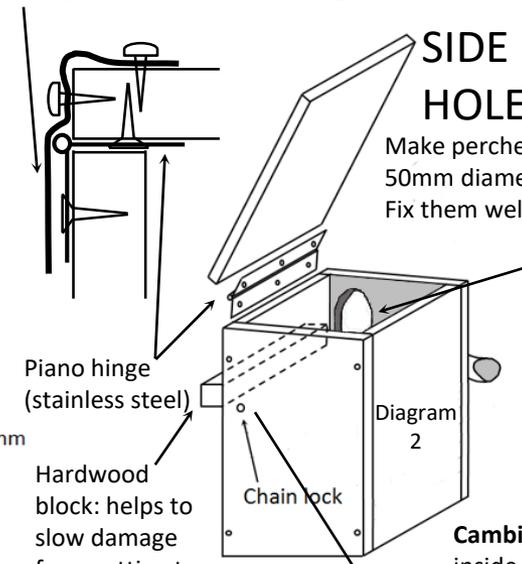
The dimensions are for 19mm ply as it has good thermal properties (animal will not freeze in winter or over heat in summer). Marine ply will last much longer outside however is expensive. Possums gnaw so please don't use any treated woods. Always use galvanized screws throughout.

Type of animal	Max No animals	L	W	H	Opening
Dunnart Pygmy Possum, Feathertail Glider Antechinus	6	140	120	100	32
Kowari, Hopping Mice Mountain Pygmy Possum	1 6 2 Adults	250	170	110	50
Tuan, Sugar Glider Squirrel Glider Leadbeater Poss	Adult or breeding pair	250	170	110	65
Ringtail Possum Yellow Bellied Glider	1	200	250	430	80
Brush-tail Possum Greater Glider Quolls	1	250	300	550	120
Wombat	1	550	1200	500	-

All measurements are in mm and for the minimum recommended box size. Leadbeater, Sugar glider, Squirrel glider and Ringtail prefer to nest in family groups and may use a Brush-tail size box with a 65-80mm opening. A choice of two boxes is recommended to accommodate individuals ejected after social disputes.

**Installation Tips:** Cable ties can be used to take any slack out of the chain (thin ones, so they can break away as the tree grows) as well as the thicker ones as an addition to the chain, completely around box and tree, usually 100mm from the bottom of the box. This provides stabilisation for the box. If drilling screws into trees it is recommended that pieces of 25mm PVC polypipe be used as spacers at the trunk to allow for expansion as tree grows.

Attach a rubber strip (tyre inner tube) to the top of the lid with three screws, fold it over and attach it to the back of the top with three more screws. Cut it long enough so it will cover the hinge and help keep rain out.



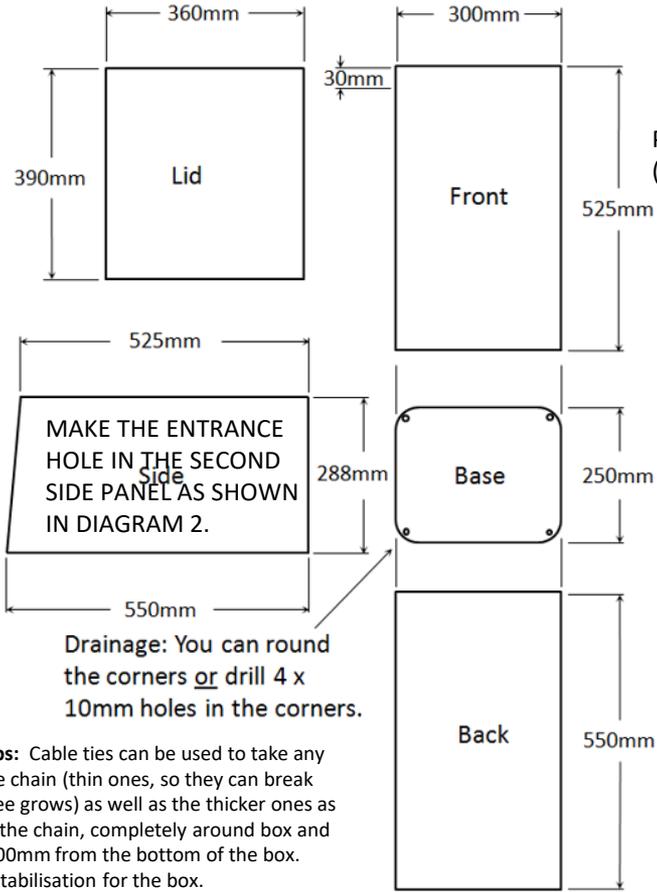
Make perches on the front and sides from 50mm diameter hardwood such as gum. Fix them well with galvanized screws.

Young Possums will need a climbing structure on the inside wall leading up to the exit hole. Plastic gutter guard secured with U nails (before assembly) works well. Or use a circular saw to make 4mm deep slits approximately every 20mm.

**Cambium saver:** Please put the chain inside a garden hose before you secure it around the tree. If you don't you will damage the bark through which the tree feeds itself. The right strength stainless-steel spring (tension spring, 1 -1.5mm wire x 20 - 30 turns x 15 - 20mm OD, connecting a stainless-steel chain with the usual hose as the tree cambium saver would work better for longevity. These might be found cheap on ebay.

If a convenient branch is not available please drive a 100mm nail or screw about 70mm deep into the back of the tree for the chain assembly to rest on.

**Positioning:** Studies have shown that 3.5m is the best height to position the box, any lower will not discourage predators, any higher and the box will probably not be used. The nest box should be placed in a tree with lots of nearby foliage to give good cover and easy entry and exit. Don't choose a stand alone tree as an interlinking canopy is very important. If the box is placed in a more exposed position, try to both, face it away from the prevailing wind/rain and not directly facing north, in most cases NE is good for Vic. **Don't place the box in a tree fork, it will soon be crushed as the tree grows.**



MAKE THE ENTRANCE HOLE IN THE SECOND SIDE PANEL AS SHOWN IN DIAGRAM 2.

**Drainage:** You can round the corners or drill 4 x 10mm holes in the corners.

If you need assistance please call AWARE Wildlife on : 0412 433 727





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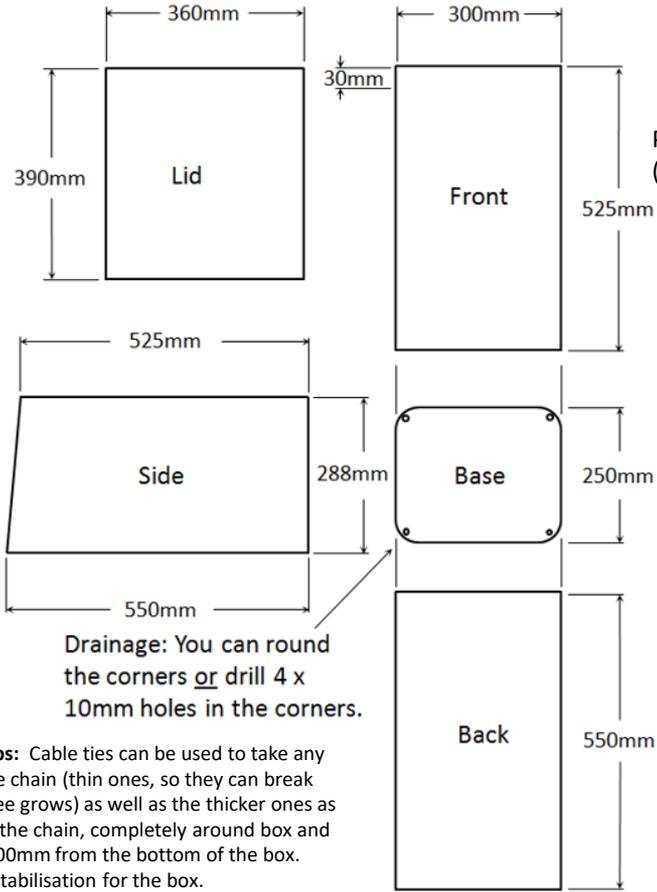
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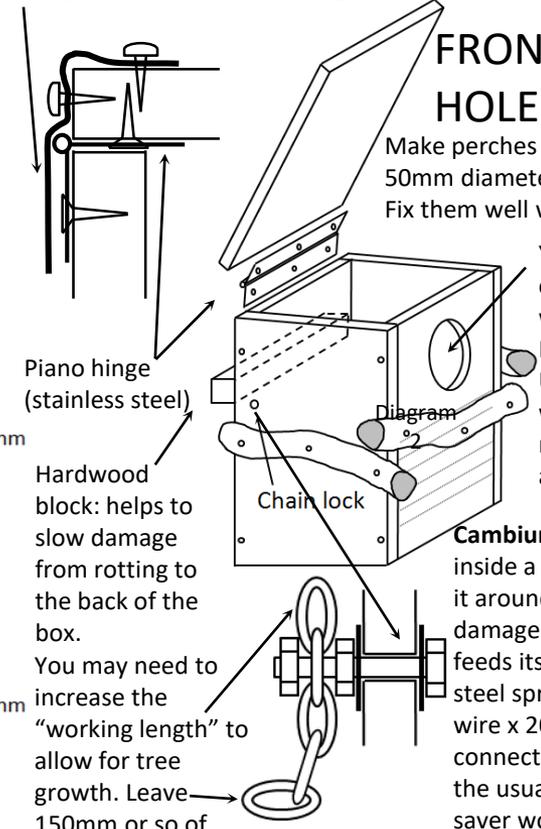
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## FRONT HOLE

Make perches on the front and sides from 50mm diameter hardwood such as gum. Fix them well with galvanized screws.



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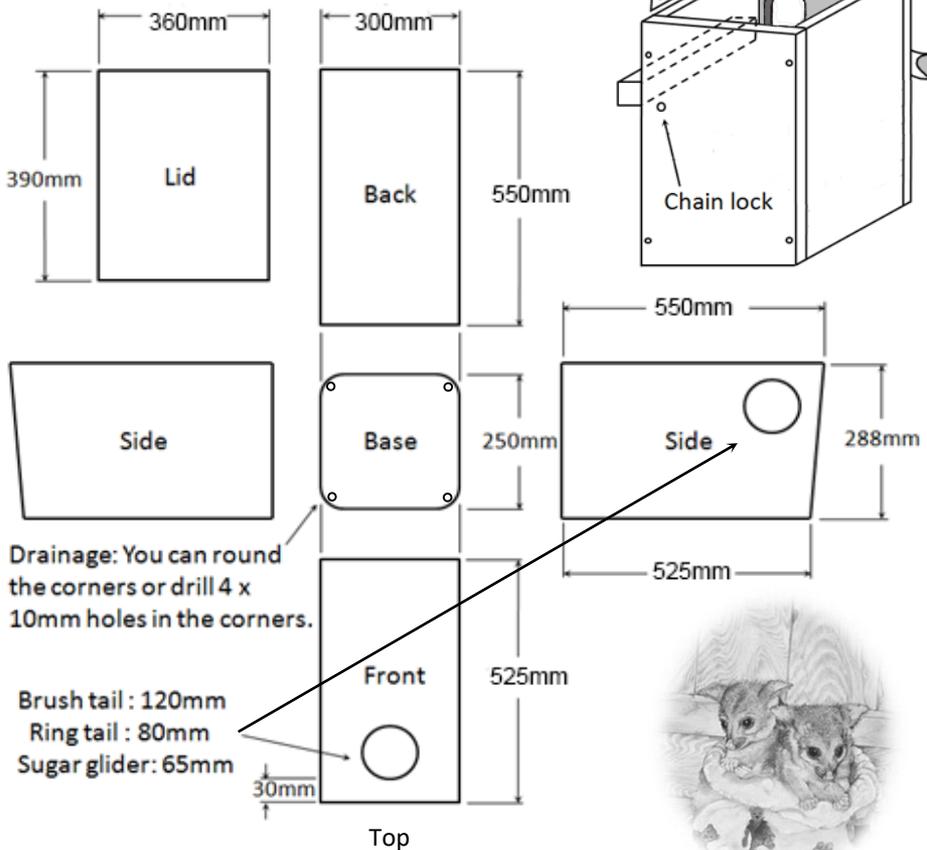
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# Possum Box Variations For Front or Side Entry

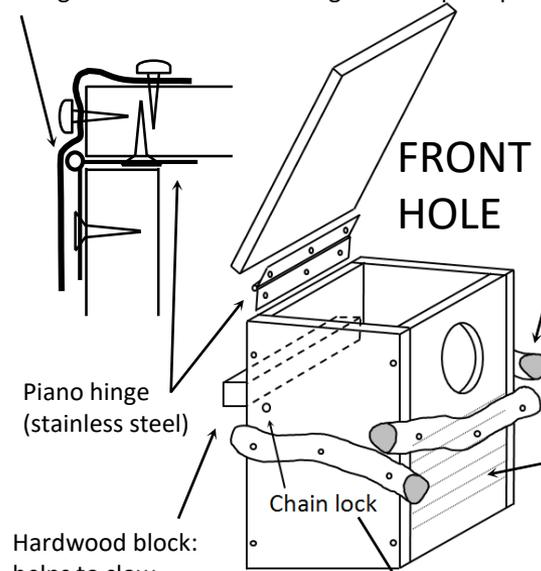
This plan is for EITHER a front or side entry possum box. In terms of ease of installation, ideal positioning (hole opening facing North-East) and accessibility for possums the side entry hole is the best option. The only advantage of a front entry hole is for Carer's who have them in the boxes in cages prior to release. However a front entry hole box can easily be modified to hang from the left-hand side to achieve the same end result.



**Drainage:** You can round the corners or drill 4 x 10mm holes in the corners.

**Brush tail:** 120mm  
**Ring tail:** 80mm  
**Sugar glider:** 65mm

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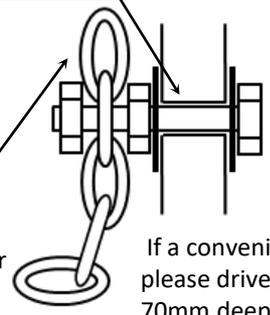


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Hardwood block: helps to slow damage from rotting to the back of the box.

You may need to increase the "working length" to allow for tree growth. Leave 150mm or so of chain hanging past the chain lock.

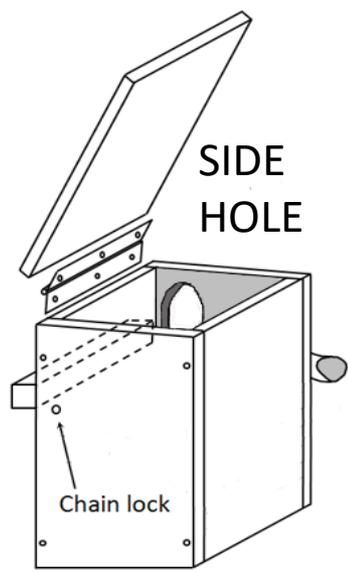
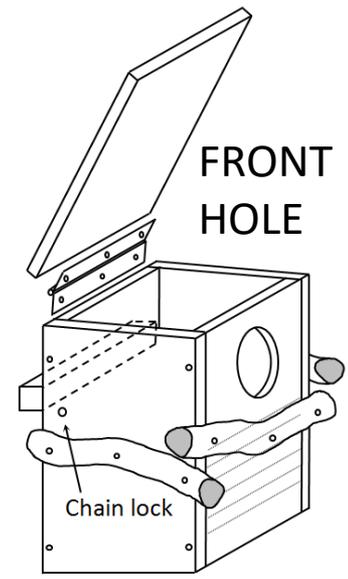
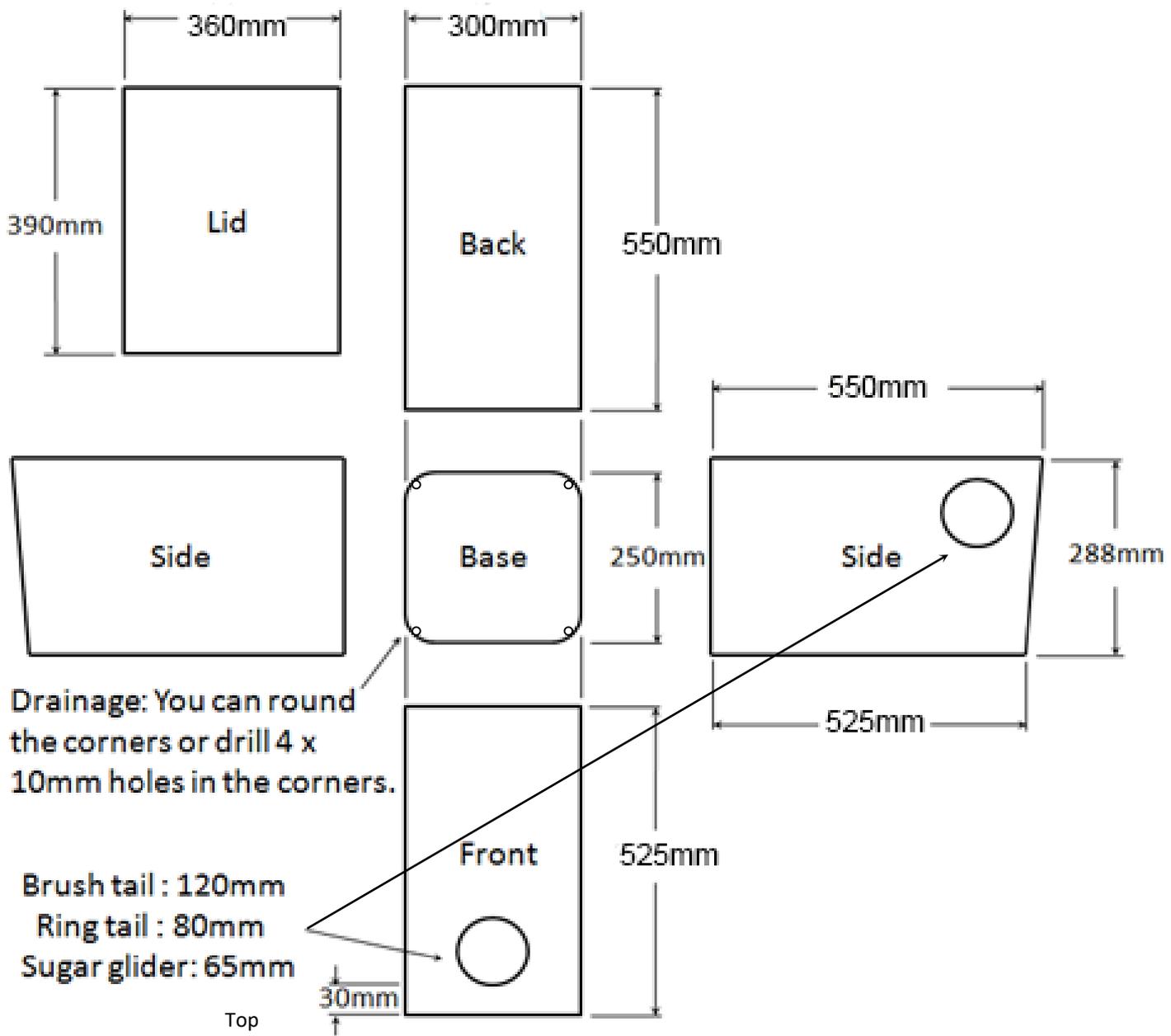


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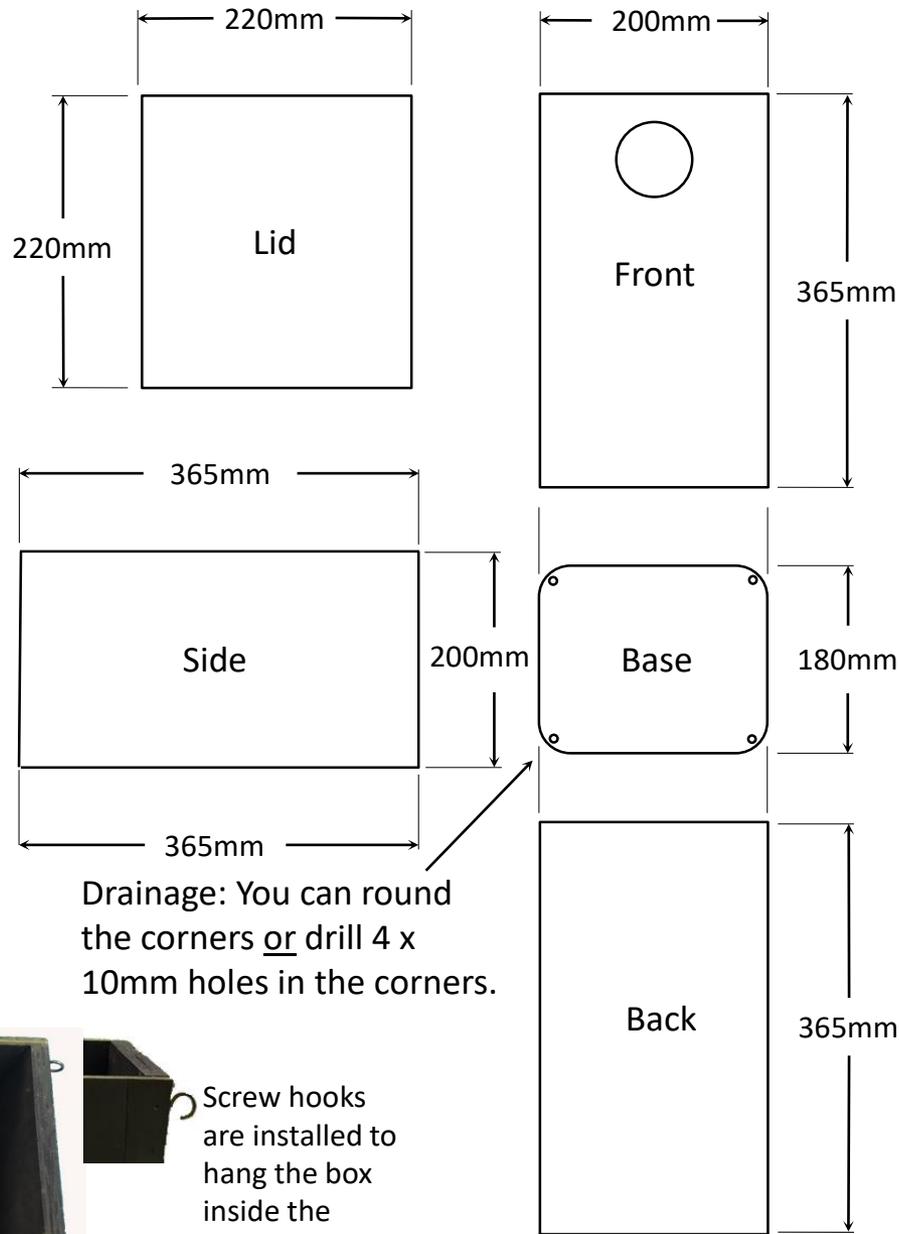
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# Possum Box Variations For Front or Side Entry



# Custom Possum Box for Carer Cages



The inside of the box must have a piece of timber or mesh for the possum to use to climb up on and out of the box.

Drainage: You can round the corners or drill 4 x 10mm holes in the corners.



Screw hooks are installed to hang the box inside the cages.

These boxes are smaller than the standard sizes so that the boxes can fit into the cages whilst the possum is in care.

The thickness of the ply is only 10mm (as compared to 19mm for the release boxes). This is because the thicker ply is not required as the box is not exposed to weather whilst in a carer's cage.

Depending on whether the box is going to be used for ringtail possums or brushtail possums the opening hole will need to be 100mm or 120mm.

This size is not suitable as a release box.

The lid simply sits on top and is held in place with two vertical pieces of timber as shown below.



A piece of timber or branch is securely connected to the front of the box so that possum has easy access.