

Bat Removals and Exclusions

Removing a Single Bat from Your Home

If this is the first time you've found a bat in your home, it may simply be a confused individual that flew in through an opening on a summer night. Finding an individual bat is a fairly common occurrence during the summer, especially when juvenile bats are first learning how to fly.

Bats may accidentally enter a home through an open window or door. You may find one circling around a room trying to find an exit.

It is best to allow the bat to find its own way out- do not chase or swat at the bat!

Steps for Removal:

- Remove any pets and children from the room.
- Confine the bat to a single room by shutting all doors that connect with the rest of the house.
- Open all doors and windows that connect outdoors, giving the bat an opportunity to exit.
- Turn the lights on and stand quietly against a wall, watching until the bat gets its bearings and leaves. Do not try to direct it toward the exit!
- If the bat rests for a prolonged period against the wall, you may remove it directly without touching the bat. Wear protective leather work gloves, and use a container (such as a large plastic bowl or a bucket) to trap the bat against the wall. Slide a piece of cardboard between the wall and container, hold it firmly against the container, and carry the container outdoors. Place the container on an elevated surface and remove the cardboard (the bat may need a while to orient itself and drop from a perch to fly away).
- Keep windows and doors closed to prevent future bat entry.
- If you have a recurring issue with bats entering your home, you should inspect your home for the potential of a bat maternity colony (see section below).

Excluding a Bat Colony from Your Home

If you frequently find bats in your living spaces, they are likely roosting somewhere in your home (usually in the attic). If you have determined that there are several bats roosting in your home, you likely have a “maternity” colony of big brown bats or little brown bats. During the summer, females of these two species form large groups to raise their pups in insulated, safe spaces (such as attics). Big brown bats may also remain during the winter instead of hibernating in caves and mines.



Bats do not create holes to roost in your house; instead, they are opportunists and find small openings to enter (even as small as a half inch!). These holes and cracks are often located around the chimney, in attic vents, under roof tiles, at roof edges, along ridge caps, soffits, fascia boards, and under flashing.

To inspect your home for possible bat roosting, check for guano piles (bat feces) or dark staining at entrance points. You may also observe bats exiting these areas at sunset and returning at sunrise. If you determine that your home does have bats roosting, check for connections between the roost and your living spaces (attic access doors, chimneys, closets, etc.).

You should take one of the following two options:

1. Contact a local professional (licensed) nuisance wildlife specialist to remove the bats from your home.
2. Perform the bat exclusion process yourself while adhering to seasonal guidelines to ensure bat survival.



Bat Exclusion Process

There is a permanent solution to humanely and effectively remove a maternity colony from your home. After determining the presence of a bat colony in your home (seeing bats exit at sunset or correctly identifying bat guano), the first step is to locate their entrance/exit points.

Bats typically enter homes in areas where jointed structural materials have separated or warped. Check around the chimney, in attic vents, under roof tiles, at roof edges, along ridge caps, soffits, fascia boards, and under flashing. To determine the access point, look for guano or discoloration below any cracks and crevices.

After the access points are correctly located, they must be permanently sealed to prevent reentry. Window screening or hardware cloth can be used to cover larger gaps, and expanding foam, caulking, or insulation can be used to fill in small cracks.

Exclusions of maternity colonies should *never* be performed between May and August because bat pups remain in the roosts until they learn to fly. If mothers are unable to reach their pups, and the pups cannot escape, the offspring will not survive. It is important to wait until September 1st to perform the exclusion process. If an exclusion must be performed while bats inhabit a building, a one-way door should be established after mid-July when the pups are able to fly. A piece of wire or plastic mesh can be used to form a sleeve connected to the opening. Once all of the bats have left, the access point may be permanently sealed.

To prevent bats from reentering your home, make sure that no screenless windows or doors are left open. Maintain your home to prevent/fix any cracks or crevices that would allow bats to enter. We also recommend installing a bat box before the completion of an exclusion to increase the survival of displaced bats.

