

Bat House Installation

VALUE OF INSTALLING A BAT HOUSE:

- Bats are the main nocturnal predator of insects, helping to control populations of unwanted insect pests in our yards and gardens.
- Bat houses provide a roosting habitat for bats that are excluded from people's homes.
- Bat houses provide roosting structures for bats' whose natural habitats are becoming degraded.

WHAT SPECIES WILL USE MY BAT HOUSE?

- In Washington, D.C., the species that are most likely to inhabit bat houses are big brown bats, little brown bats, and tri-colored bats.
- These species will likely occupy bat boxes from the early spring to the early fall.
- Most pups are born in June and July.



For more information on bat house installation, construction, design specification and purchasing, please visit: www.batcon.org



WHEN SHOULD THE BAT HOUSE BE INSTALLED?

- Though you may install a bat house at any time, they are more likely to become occupied in the summer if they are installed in the early spring.
- If you are excluding bats from your home, it is best to install a bat house 2-6 weeks before exclusion. It is best to wait until early September for exclusion to increase likelihood of both adult and offspring survival.

WHERE SHOULD I INSTALL MY BAT HOUSE?

- Bat houses are more likely to be inhabited when placed on a pole or when mounted on the side of a building at least 15 feet off the ground.
- It is best that the boxes are oriented south to southeast to receive 6-8 hours of sunlight every day.
- There should be no obstructions around the bat house to prevent entry/exit.
- Bat houses should not be installed on trees due to less sunlight availability, foliage obstructions, and risk of predation.

HOW DO I MAINTAIN AND MONITOR MY BAT HOUSE?

- For the first few years, little maintenance is necessary.
- Maintenance should only be performed when bats are not present.
- Bat houses may need to be caulked or repainted every 3-5 years to ensure warm temperatures.
- Paint colors should be dark-medium shades to absorb more solar heat.
- Cleaning houses with an open bottom is only necessary if insects, such as wasps, establish a nest inside.
- Monitoring may be performed by watching for emergence at sunset, checking for guano underneath, and (sparingly) shining a flashlight inside to look for inhabitants.