



Bat Housing Information



Where and how should I mount my bat house?

Bats prefer to live in houses either mounted on buildings, poles, or other large wooden or concrete structures.



Houses mounted on buildings and poles provide the best protection from predators, are easier to locate, have better occupancy rates, and are generally in areas that receive more sunlight. They should be mounted at least 12 feet above the ground, although 15-20 feet is the best. One should avoid mounting houses above windows, decks, doors, or walkways. Houses facing south usually work best. You can place a potted plant beneath the bat house to collect bat guano, which makes a good fertilizer for flower beds or gardens. However, you should not place a bucket or deep container underneath, as baby bats may fall and become trapped inside.

The most successful bat houses are generally placed 20-30 feet from the closest trees, near a water source, and in an area of diverse habitat.

Temperature is the single most important aspect for a thriving bat house. Temperatures inside a bat house should be as warm as possible.

Will I need to provide any maintenance to my bat house?

Bat houses will need a bit of yearly maintenance to ensure that bats will continue coming back year after year. Because bat houses tend to attract wasps, you should clean your house towards the end of each winter. New caulk and new stain may be needed after 3 to 5 years of use.

Other general information

It may take up to 2 to 5 years before your bat house becomes occupied, however, if it is still vacant after 2 years, you may consider moving it to a new location. There are no proven bat attractants that will help insure that your house becomes occupied. Bats native to Washington and Idaho include: Little Brown Bat, Yuma Myotis, Keen's Myotis, Long-eared Myotis, Long-legged Myotis, Big Brown Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Pallid Bat, Fringed Myotis, Small-footed Myotis, Western Pipistrelle, Hoary Bat, and the Spotted Bat.

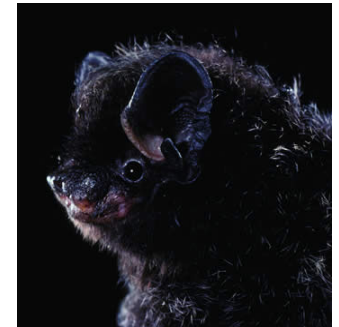
Hoary Bat



Little Brown Bat



Silver-haired Bat



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