

Be Bat Friendly...



Build a Bat House



SINGLE-CHAMBER BAT HOUSE (Wall mounted)

Materials:

1. Plywood ½", 5/8" or ¾"
 - a. Back: – 16" x 24"
 - b. Front – 16" x 18"
 - c. Roof – ¾" x 5" x 18"
2. Lumber:
 - a. 2 pieces – 2" x 2" x 24" (1 ½" x 1 ½" finish-cut) sides
 - b. 1 piece – 2" x 2" x 13" (1 ½" x 1 ½" finish-cut) ceiling
 - c. 1 piece – ¾" x ¾" x 13" (restriction for the bottom of front)
 - d. 1 piece – ¾" x ¾" x 18" retainer on roof (optional)
 - e. 1 piece – ¾" x 1 ½" x 13" shelf - collects guano (gives ready indication of occupancy without disturbing bats)
3. Fiberglass window screening 16" x 24" (not metal window screening – for bat safety)
4. 1 ½" - 1 ¾" Exterior grade screws – for ease of cleaning and removal of wasp nests.
5. Brown paint or stain (water based) – (dark colour provides better absorption of the warmth of the sun)

Construction Hints:

1. Stretch and staple screen firmly to back.
2. Screw back to sides and ceiling. Also screw the shelf on to the bottom of back.
3. Screw ¾" x ¾" restriction at the bottom of the front piece.
4. Carefully screw front to the 2x2s attached to the back.
5. Finally, screw the roof on flush with the back as per diagram.
6. Optional – A ¾" x ¾" x 18" piece may be attached to the top front edge of the roof (as per diagram) to help robins or barn swallows to hold their nests in place. This works well where there is adequate space between the roof overhang and the top of bat house (approx. 8"). In this case birds and bats are compatible.

Some Helpful Hints for your success from Bat Conservation International:

1. Best location for bat house – south or east facing wall of building – think warm – the building acts as a heat bank.
2. Place houses as high as reasonably possible – peak of gables or under roof overhang at least 10-12 feet high – must have a clear approach path.
3. Be a good "landlord"! Maintain your houses to keep bats coming back year after year. Wasp nests should be cleaned out each winter after bats and wasps have left – the use of screws makes it easy to do.
4. Once bats are using your bat house, do not disturb as they may leave.

For more information go to: www.batcon.org