

Bat Houses

Bat Facts

- There are almost 1000 species of bats. They make up almost 25% of all mammal species!
- Bats are not blind and don't get tangled in people's hair, although these are popular misconceptions.
- Many bats are able to find food and avoid obstacles at night without using their vision. They do this by using echolocation. However not all bats are able to echolocate.

How do bats help people?

- Insect-eating bats are a natural source of pest control and play an important ecological role by keeping insect populations in check. A single little brown bat can catch 1,200 mosquitoes sized insects in just 1 hour!
- Bats also feed on many insects which we consider agricultural pests.
- Fruit-eating bats help tropical forests grow by pollinating flowers and dispersing seeds. In fact some plants depend on bats for their survival.

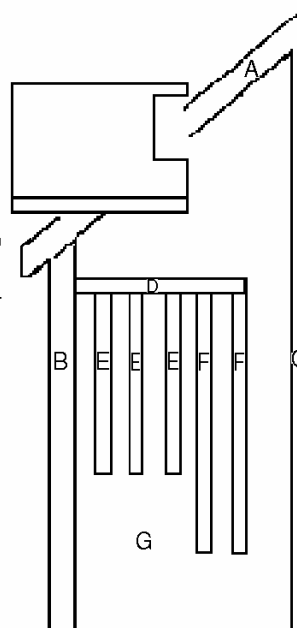
How can I help bats?

- Many bats species are endangered, and need our help! More than 50% of American bat species are in severe decline or already listed as endangered.
- By constructing a bat house near your own home, you can help increase their chances for survival.

Where can I see bats?

At Disney's Animal Kingdom, the Rodriguez fruit bat and the giant flying fox can be seen on the Maharajah Jungle Trek in Asia.

How to build a bat house



Dimensions (in inches)

- A-Roof 16 1/2 x 11 1/4
- B-Front 18 3/4 x 9 1/4
- C-Back 27 x 9 1/4
- D-Ceiling 9 3/4 x 9 1/4
- E-Partitions 9 1/4 wide x 8 high
- F-Partitions 9 1/4 wide x 14 high
- G-Sides 11 1/4 wide x 27 at back, 18 3/4 at front

Spacing between partitions
Front to back 3/4, 3/4, 3/4, 1, 1 1/2, 1 1/4

- You will need 6 feet of 1 x 12-inch board and ten feet of 1 x 10-inch board. (DO NOT use any board that has been chemically treated.)
- Spacing between the partitions should remain the same. This design has varied crevice sizes most often used by bats in the United States.
- All inner surfaces of the bat house must be rough or horizontally grooved so that the bats can get a firm foothold.
 - ◆ Use rough lumber and turn the rough sides inward.

- ◆ Cut small horizontal grooves at 1/2 inch intervals on the smooth sides of all partitions.
- Apply a bead of silicone caulk along all exterior joints to prevent heat loss. This holds in the bat's body heat, increasing the probability of occupancy.
- Place the house 10-15 feet above the ground. Bat houses placed on the side of the building or on a pole seem to be the most attractive to bats. Try to avoid placing the bat house in a tree because of the threat of predators.
- The bat house should face the east or the southeast to catch the morning sun.
- If the bat house is placed near a natural water source this may increase your chance of attracting bats.

Be patient!!! It may take some time for the bats to move into their new home. Do not open the house to check for bats. Guano, or bat droppings will be visible once the bats have taken residence.



For more information about bats or to purchase a ready-made bat house, contact:

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