



Bat Box

Control insects naturally with the help of these mammals

MOUNTING:

- The best time to put up a Bat Box is late March-early April, although you may put one up at any time.
- Mount to a pole, building or a dead tree. Live trees tend to shade the bat box and bats won't use them because they don't reach a high enough temperature. Boxes mounted on metal buildings tend not to be used as well.
- Mount the box at least 10-15 feet high.

LOCATION:

- If mounting one or two boxes face them south to southeast.
- The box should get at least 8-10 hours of sunlight a day.
- For best results mount four boxes. Place a box for each direction N,S,E,W. This will provide a variety of temperatures for the bats seasonal needs.
- However, bats are migratory creatures and may only occupy your bat box during the spring & summer.

BREEDING:

- Young are born mid May through July and can fly by the end of August.
- A female gives birth to one baby per year.

MAINTENANCE:

- Boxes should be cleaned every year. Check for guano underneath the box to determine if it has been used.
- **CARE MUST BE** taken when cleaning. Wear a mask when dealing with bat guano. Also be aware of wasps and bees that may be nesting in the box.

TIPS:

- **DO NOT** place the box lower than 10 feet from the ground.
- Boxes that fail to attract bats after two years should be relocated or try painting them black or dark brown.
- Temperature is the most important factor in determining if a bat box is successful. The goal is to obtain a 90-100 degree temperature which is ideal for bat growth.
- Bats are not territorial. You can always add another box if you are having success with the first box.

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Facts on Bats

Bats are neither rodents nor strange night birds. They are very gentle, intelligent little mammals that are more closely related to us than they are to mice. Unlike mice, a female bat has but one baby per year.

The more you know about bats, the more enthused you become in learning more about these interesting creatures that are so very unappreciated and misunderstood. Through the years, bats have been the source of suspicion and vicious tales.

Bats are no more susceptible to rabies than any other mammal. In fact, due to their lack of aggression to other mammals, they are less likely to contract the disease than dogs, cats, skunks, foxes, and the like. Only ten people in the U.S. and Canada are believed to have gotten rabies from bats in the past four decades.

Bats are truly one of man's best friends. In the U.S. there are 39 species of bats, three of which are nectar lovers. All the others work hard at eliminating night time flying insects. One bat can nip off up to 3,000 insects per night.

Most bats are equipped with built in sonar. They can receive an echo from their high pitched shriek off a flying insect and then are able to zero in on their victim.

Many bats hibernate almost at will. If there is an insect recession because of a cold snap or epidemic, the bat can just shut things down and take a snooze until better times.

In many parts of the world, the bat is the symbol of happiness and family unity, perhaps because they make devoted mates that can barely tolerate separation and engage in elaborate courtship displays.

Enjoy your purchase of this bat house and follow the installation tips on the front side to ensure success with your very own bat family and naturally insect control.

<http://www.batcon.org/index.php>

For more information

