

General Bat Proofing Schedule:

Remember it is best to install a bat house a year in advance.

| | |
|-----------|---|
| January | No Bats in Building |
| February | |
| March | |
| April | |
| May | Seal Entrances Before Bats Arrive |
| June | |
| July | |
| August | |
| September | Install Bat Houses (One Year in Advance) |
| October | |
| November | |
| December | |
| January | Identify but DO NOT SEAL Entrances |
| February | |
| March | |
| April | |
| May | Bats are having pups |
| June | |
| July | |
| August | |
| September | Install One-way Doors |
| October | |
| November | |
| December | |
| January | Seal Entrances and Complete Bat Proofing |
| February | |
| March | |
| April | |

For more information about rabies call:
1-800-4RABIES

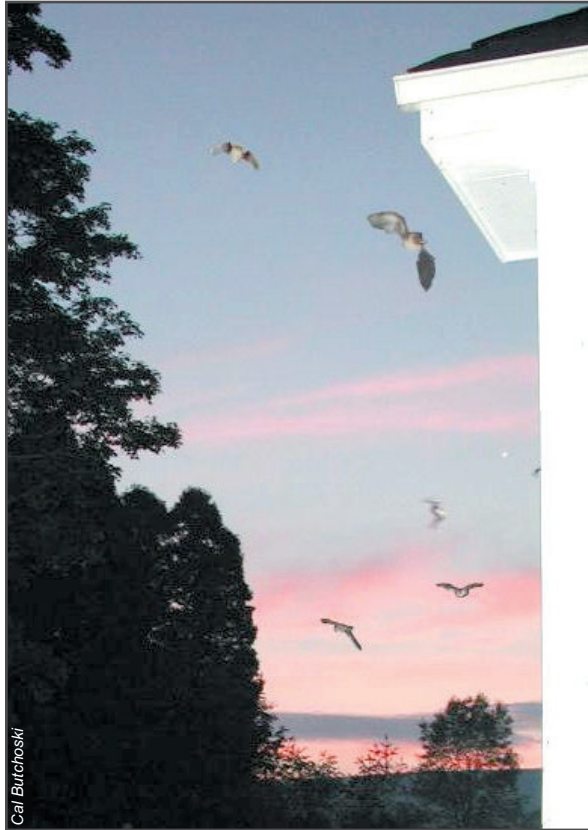
Sections reprinted with permission for educational purposes from: "Wildlife Damage Management Fact Sheet Series: Bats," Curtis, P.D. and K.L. Sullivan 2001. Cornell Cooperative Extension, Ithaca, NY. Pamphlet designed by Kim Hall and Lilla Lumbra 1M 4/04

VERMONT
FISH AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
www.vtfishandwildlife.com
(802) 241-3700



Bats in Your House

Dealing with unwanted guests



How to Evict Uninvited Guests

SINGLE BAT IN THE HOUSE

Individual bats occasionally enter houses, most often during evenings in July and August. These wayward bats are often the year's young that are just beginning to fly. If you encounter a bat flying in a room, **make sure that no person or pet has had contact with the bat.**

Capture the bat using the following methods but do not release the bat if it was found in a room with a sleeping person, a previously unattended child, or a mentally disabled or intoxicated person.

If there is any question about possible contact with the bat, do not release it.

Contact your local health department as soon as possible. Call 1-800-640-4374 (VT) or 1-802-863-7240.

Flying Bat

Remain calm! Do not chase or swat at the bat. This will only cause it to panic and fly erratically around the room.



Shut all doors leading into other rooms to confine the bat to a single area. Remove pets from the room.

Open all windows (without screens) and doors leading outside to give the bat a chance

to escape. There is little chance of other bats flying in from outside, so don't worry.

Leave the lights on, stand quietly against a wall or door, and watch the bat to be certain it actually flies outdoors.

Do not try to herd the bat toward a window. Allow it to get its bearings calmly, and don't worry about it swooping at you. It is not going to get tangled in your hair! When indoors, a bat makes steep, banking turns, so it flies upward as it approaches a wall and swoops lower near the center of the room.

Within 10 to 15 minutes the bat should settle down, locate the open door or window, and fly out of the room. If it does not, wait for the bat to rest and follow the instructions below.

Resting Bat

Put on a pair of heavy leather or work gloves. **Never handle a bat, or any other wild animal, with your bare hands.**

Place a container, such as a large plastic bowl or coffee can, over the bat as it rests on the wall. The bat will likely be exhausted and disoriented and should not fly when you approach it.

Slide a piece of rigid cardboard (or a magazine or lid from a bowl) between the container and the wall to trap the bat. Hold the cardboard firmly against the container and carry it outside.



✈ If the bat is in a hard-to-reach place, use a fine-meshed insect net with a long pole.

✈ Once you have captured the bat and are certain no people or pets have come into contact with it, place the container on its side on a secure place above the ground – such as on a ledge or against a tree. Be sure the opening is facing away from you; then slide away the cardboard.

✈ Releasing the bat above the ground will keep it safe from predators until it has its bearings. Unlike birds, most bats must drop from a perch and catch air under their wings before they can fly.

If bats continue to enter your home, inspect it, including the attic, to determine if you are housing a bat maternity colony.

BAT COLONIES

Because bats have only one or two pups per year, the destruction of just one maternity colony can have long-term impacts on the local population of bats and insects.

Colonies greater than 100 bats should be reported to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.



Follow these simple instructions to bat-proof your home.

BATS, BIRDS OR SOME OTHER CRITTER?

Be sure you really do have bats. It is important to correctly identify the animals causing a problem. Bats do not damage or destroy property by gnawing or chewing. Squirrels and mice in an attic make scurrying and squeaking noises that sound like bats, and chimney swifts look like bats when they fly out at night.

✈ The best way to tell if you have a bat colony is to look for roosting bats or bat droppings in your attic. During the day, bats usually roost in narrow crevices in the attic walls and between the rafters. When you enter the attic, the bats will quickly retreat out of sight, rather than take flight.

✈ If you are uncomfortable entering the attic when bats are present, inspect the attic at night for bat droppings. The dry, black

droppings are about the size of a grain of rice and are soft and easily crushed, revealing shiny insect parts. Bat droppings accumulate in piles below areas where bats roost. Mouse



droppings look similar, but would be scattered in small amounts throughout the attic.

✈ Bats can sometimes be detected by the presence of black or brown stains from body oils.

✈ Watching for bats outside your house at dusk or dawn also will reveal where bats are getting in.

BAT PROOFING BASICS

Once you know there is a bat colony, the best way to bat proof your house is through exclusion. It is a safe, effective, and humane way of evicting unwanted bats.

Full details on how to exclude bats (exclusion methods) can be found on the Bat Conservation International's web site at www.batcon.org Just type "do it yourself" in the search box and click on Bats in Buildings: Do-It-Yourself Guidelines.

Here are a few things to remember when excluding bats:

✈ **Exclusions should never be done between late May and early August.** This is when the bats are having their pups and the young would be trapped inside.

✈ It is a good idea to put up a bat house before your exclusion to give the bats a safe place to go. You will still benefit from the bats' insect control without having unwanted guests in your house.

✈ Bat houses can be purchased or plans for building your own can be found online. Remember to build or purchase a bat house

suited to Vermont's northern climate.

✈ It is best to install your bat house during May through August, **a year prior to bat-proofing.** This will give the bats time to become accustomed to it.

✈ Be sure to place the house where it will receive at least eight hours of sunlight.

✈ Seal any entrances to your house between the months of January through April, before the bats arrive.

✈ Between May and August, when the bats are having their pups, watch the bats exiting at dusk to identify openings. **Do not seal them!**

✈ Between September and October install one-way door(s) in identified opening(s). The one-way door will let bats exit the building but not reenter.

✈ Finally, from November through December, seal the entrances to complete your bat proofing.

✈ If you suspect there are bats hibernating in the building, install a one-way door during the months of September through October.

