

Bat House Information

Many people misunderstand bats. Scary stories and vampire movies have led people to believe bats are dangerous. These flying mammals are actually quite helpful and gentle. They are natural pest removers that can eat up to their weight in insects every night. They also help spread plants and trees by eating fruit and dropping the seeds into the soil. If you want to give bats a safe place to nest, install a bat house, and they will pay you back.

Follow these quick tips to make your bat house feel like home:

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Choose the right location: Place your bat house where it can get at least six hours of direct sunlight every day, as long as the average high temperature in July is less than 100 degrees Fahrenheit (Where the average high temperature in July is less than 80 degrees, your bat house should receive at least 10 hours of direct sunlight). If you can, place your bat house within a quarter mile of a stream, river, or lake. Lots of insects live near water and bats like to live where they can find food easily. Mount your bat house on a pole or against a building, at least 15 feet off the ground. Make sure the houses are not near bright lights.

Make it safe: Like other animals, bats are concerned about predators and won't roost in places where they feel they are in danger. You can make your bat residents feel safe by placing metal predator guards on the wooden poles and by placing your bat house 20 to 25 feet from the nearest tree branches, wires, or other places where predators can perch. Bat houses can also be attached to the side of a house.

Good Timing: The best time to install the bat house is in late winter, before the bats return to the area in the spring. If you have bats living in your house or garage and you're trying to encourage them to move to the bat house, you should put up the house two to six weeks before evicting them.