

## Bat Information

- **Why Should I Learn About Bat & Rabies?**  
Most recent human rabies cases in the US have been caused by rabies virus from bats. Awareness of the facts about bats and rabies can help people protect themselves, their families and their pets.
- **Blown myths -**  
When people think about bats, they often imagine things that are not true. Bats are not blind. They are neither rodents nor birds. They will not suck your blood - and most do not have rabies. Bats play key roles in ecosystems around the globe, from rain forests to deserts, especially by eating insects, including agricultural pests. The best protection we can offer against these unique mammals is to learn more about their habits and recognize the value of living safely with them.
- **How Can I Tell If A Bat Has Rabies?**  
Rabies can be confirmed only in a laboratory. However, any bat that is active by day, is found in a place where bats are not usually seen (for example, in a room in your home or on the lawn), or is unable to fly, is far more likely than others to be rabid. Such bats are often the most easily approached. Therefore, it is best never to handle any bat.
- **What Should I Do If My Pet Is Exposed To A Bat?**  
If you think your pet or domestic animal has been bitten by a bat, contact a veterinarian or your health department for assistance immediately and have the bat tested for rabies. Remember to keep vaccinations current for cats, dogs and other animals.

**For more information on bat-proofing your home or bat removal please give us a call.**

**For more information call . . .**

**Nuisance News!**



**Fact Sheet**

**Your Company Name**

**Address**

**City , State Zip**

**Phone Number(s)**



**Bats!**

Bats need a safe place to roost during the day and much of their natural habitat is disappearing with our population growth. While they do get into occupied dwellings, there is a safe, effective and responsible way to deal with removing them from your home.

## Hazards

Like other mammals, a very small percentage of bats contract and carry rabies (figures shown by the health departments may register a higher percentage since sick bats are easier to catch than healthy bats). Exposure to the rabies virus is remote if contact with bats is avoided and pets are properly vaccinated.

Histoplasmosis is an airborne fungus disease that can grow in bat droppings (guano), but usually the guano must have contact with moist soil, which is normally not present in a dry attic environment.

Human inhalation is usually the result of stirring up dust that contains contaminate fungus spores, therefore it is not recommended to clean up guano without the help of trained personnel with the proper safety equipment. Droppings are most dangerous when they are dry and subject to becoming airborne as a fine dust, particularly when disturbed by sweeping or scraping. Assume that a health hazard is present whenever bat droppings are disturbed.

Trained workers must wear full face respirators with HEPA filters capable of excluding particles of 0.3 micron size or a supplied air respirator with full face piece. Dust and particle masks will not provide adequate protection. They must also wear disposable coveralls, gloves, boots and hats to protect personal clothing from contamination with infective organisms.

Do not perform excrement removal on public buildings during normal working hours. When possible, schedule the removal for weekends or other periods of minimum building use. Protect interior air by closing all heating and cooling system air intakes during the cleanup. Shut down if possible.

Bats are host to ectoparasites such as bat bugs (a relative of the bed bug). Ectoparasites

associated with bats are most normally host specific, and rarely bite pets or humans. Ectoparasites can be controlled by an insecticide treatment to the roosting area after the bats are evicted.

## Damage

Most humans dislike bat noises (squeaking, scratching, crawling in attics and walls). Stains and odors caused by urine and droppings usually draw quite a complaint from homeowners. Most bat sightings occur in July and August. Bats will enter dwellings through overhangs, eaves, unscreened vents and construction gaps. Bats can squeeze through holes as small as 3/8" wide (dime sized hole). They may occasionally enter the house through chimneys and open windows. Seeking more pleasing temperature zones, bats can actually get lost and enter the building interiors.

## Toxicants

Poisoning bats is illegal and usually leads to an increased number of contacts with people and pets in the vicinity. Repellents are generally ineffective against bats and may even drive bats further into the dwelling.

## Batboxes



## Control

Individual bats that get into the home or dwelling can often be let out by opening the doors and windows.

Exclusion is the number one priority in bat management. Thorough exclusion of all holes larger than 1/4" is needed at all potential openings, especially in the top half of the building, and control should be left up to professionals.

## Management

Bats, despite their obvious value, are unjustifiably persecuted. Public education on bat conservation and responsible control methods are needed. Ask us about installing bat houses to keep the bats around after they are evicted from inside the structure. For further information on bats call Bat Conservation International at 512-327-9721.

## House Bats Info

Bats are nocturnal (night active) and have a 6" to 12" wingspan. They are insectivores (main diet is insects) and some species eat up to half their body weight each night in flying insects. Bats usually breed in fall or winter. Pregnant females congregate in maternity colonies until birth occurs between April and July. There are usually 1 to 2 young that begin flying at 3 to 5 weeks of age.

Large colonies are usually found in caves and mines, while bats that live in trees are solitary. Bats are not normally found in structures, although a few species of bats will enter buildings to roost.

Little brown bats commonly invade structures in the spring and summer, while big brown bats use buildings year-round for raising young and hibernation. Mexican free-tailed bats and pallid bats occasionally enter structures and are found primarily in the Southwest US.