

BATS



BATS AWAY
A division of ALLIANCE PEST SERVICES

BATS



Ernst Haeckel's *Kunstformen der Natur* (1904)

Through this guide, you will learn about the various types of bats as well as:

- How to identify them
- Their habitat and nesting habits
- The danger of having bats around
- Determining if you have a problem
- How to get rid of bats
- How to bat-proof your home

Bats are an important part of the ecosystem. They eat a lot of different insects and that's great news when you want to spend time outdoors. If you were to get rid of the bat population in your area, you would probably see a considerable increase in the number of mosquitoes that fly around outside. Just because bats are part of the ecosystem doesn't mean that you want them flying around the inside of your home or business. They can carry diseases and are not the friendliest creatures.

Due to their importance in the ecosystem, the solution is typically not to kill them. Instead, they will be removed from your home and then your home will be

bat-proofed so you don't encounter the problem again in the future. When you have bats, they tend to remember where they like living and so they are going to try to come back. They are reluctant creatures and this is why it's critical to work with a pest control expert that understands bats.



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Bats are commonly associated with a number of diseases, including rabies. This is just another reason why you don't want them to make your home or other building their nesting site. Some people only deal with a bat or two while others deal with entire colonies.

You may want to know why bats have entered a man-made structure. The answer varies depending on species. Much of it has to do with the deforestation of North America. Every time humans clear out land that was home to bats, they need to find a new home. As a result, they choose an area that offers them a similar habitat. They will fly into the nearest neighborhood and look for entry points on the houses or even create a nest in a large wooded area within a person's property – and perhaps a tree house of a child or the barn on a large farm.

The more you know about bats, the easier it will be to determine if you have a problem and what you should do about it. Due to the complexity of these creatures and the diseases that they may or may not carry, it is always a good idea to involve an expert to ensure that the problem is being handled properly.



IDENTIFYING THE VARIOUS TYPES OF BATS

Bats are unique in the fact that they are mammals. They are the only ones capable of flight and have elongated fingers that resemble a human hand more than many prefer to admit. Around the world, there are almost 1,000 different species of bats. They actually make up a quarter of all mammal species on earth.

Different Variety of Bats Found In The Northeastern United States:

- Big Brown Bat
- Eastern Pipistrelle Bat
- Hoary Bat
- Evening Bat
- Indiana Bat
- Northern Long-Eared,
- Little Brown Bat
- Red Bat
- Seminole Bat
- Silver-Haired Bat
- Small-Footed Bat

Throughout the northeastern part of the United States, there are quite a few different bat species. These include Big Brown Bat, Eastern Pipistrelle Bat (tri colored), Hoary Bat, Evening Bat, Indiana Bat, Northern Long-Eared, Little Brown Bat, Red Bat, Seminole Bat, Silver-Haired Bat and Small-Footed Bat.

The more you know about the bats, the easier it will be to identify them, understand them, and rid yourself of any problems that you have with them.

The lifespan of a bat is longer than many other mammals of their size, making them a pest that is hard to get rid of. A little brown bat can live in the wild for as long as 30 years. Some other species have shorter life spans than this, but is still impressive considering their size.

There are two suborders when talking about bats. Megachiroptera means large bat, which can have a wingspan that is as much as six feet in length. Microchiroptera means small bat and their bodies are usually no more than an inch long.

Bats can be found anywhere in the world with the exception of extreme desert as well as Polar Regions.



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BIG BROWN BAT

The big brown bat, known as *Eptesicus fuscus*, is found through much of North America. They form maternity colonies in loose bark of trees. They can also be found in buildings, barns and even bridges. They feed on beetles and various night-flying insects. These bats are incredibly important to the ecosystem as a colony of 150 big brown bats can eat enough beetles to prevent an infestation of corn fields.



Courtesy Of The Nation Park Service

This type of bat measures about four to five inches in its body and has an approximate 12 inch wingspan. The ears, feet, and face are a dark brown to black color while the body is a tannish brown.

EASTERN PIPISTRELLE BAT



Photo By Jeff deLonge Vantoux-et-Longeville, France

The eastern pipistrelle bat is how many people still know this bat, though it is now commonly called the tri-colored bat as a way of classification. This type of bat, the *Perimyotis subflavus*, is heavily populated so there is no concern for conservation at this point in time. The bats are found throughout Northern America and particularly within eastern forests. They do not typically go into buildings or deep woods. Instead, they prefer to choose a habitat near agriculture. They will feed on grain moths and play an important role in the survival of crops.

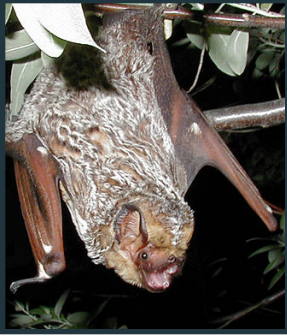
It is relatively easy to identify this type of bat because it is red, yellow, and brown in color. The forearms can be reddish orange and the wing membrane is predominantly black. These are some of the smallest bats and therefore some of the hardest to find. They only weigh about four grams and can be about one to two inches in length.

HOARY BAT

The hoary bat, commonly known in the science world as *Lasiurus cinereus*, are some of the more “handsome” bats as they are often referred to. They are not



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Courtesy Of The U.S. Geological Survey

attracted to houses and they stay hidden in foliage throughout the day. They will typically roost 10 feet up or higher. They can be found through a significant part of the United States and it is actually the only native land mammal to Hawaii. They can make a round trip of 24 miles in an effort to forage at night.

These bats have a dark brown coat with a frost of silver. Their size is around 14 inches in the body and a wingspan of about 15 to 16 inches.

EVENING BAT

The evening bat, also known as *Nycticeius humeralis*, is one of the more abundant bat species found in the southeastern part of the United States. This bat remains in wooded areas as opposed to going into caves. Loose bark, attics, and buildings are where it is found setting up colonies. It will come out closely after dusk and begin to forage for spittle bugs, flying ants, beetles, and moths. Some migration is seen of this species and they will remain active through the winter months as opposed to hibernating.



Courtesy Of The US Army

The physical attributes of the evening bat is a light brown color throughout. They are smaller bats and only weigh about 7 to 15 grams in total.



Courtesy Of The USFWS

INDIANA BAT

The Indian bat, also known as *Myotis sodalis*, was one of the first species of bats in the U.S. to be recognized as endangered. Much of this has to do with the decline of hibernation sites. During the summer, these bats will use tree hollows and loose bark to roost. They are found throughout the Eastern U.S. and heavily throughout New England.



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It will roost as it needs to based on surroundings and as such, it will use the crevices of homes. Since it is endangered, they are handled with care when found inside of a home.

The Indiana bat closely resembles that of the little brown bat. The easiest way to tell the difference is that the Indiana bat features a keel on the caclar and the hair on the hind feet are longer than the toes.

NORTHERN LONG-EAR



The northern long-eared myotis, *Myotis septentrionalis*, is found throughout the eastern part of the United States and can be found as far south as northern Florida. These bats are commonly found in tree cavities, but will go into caves and in homes. They are solitary creatures and are not typically found in colonies. They may be in small groups, but still limited to small numbers.

As the name implies, the main characteristic are long ears, which are oblong and dark brown in color.

LITTLE BROWN BAT

The little brown bat or *Myotis lucifugus* is commonly also called myotis, due to the genus that it is found in. It is by far one of the most abundant bats in North America and it is not a concern when it comes to the conservation status. They are found in forest habitats, though they will often form colonies that contain hundreds or even thousands of offspring within man-made structures including buildings, barns, and attics. They can get into small crevices and are capable of catching 1200 insects in a single hour of feeding.



Courtesy Of The USFWS



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The characteristics are easy based upon the name of the little brown bat. They are dark brown with a slightly glossy coat of fur. The wingspan is around 10 inches in length and the ears are short, black, and round. The female bats will be a little larger than males. The size of these bats is relatively small at about half an ounce in weight and about two inches in body length.

RED BAT

There is an eastern and western version of the red bat. The eastern red bat, known as *Lasiurus borealis*, is found throughout the Rocky Mountains, into Canada, and as far south as central Florida. They have a bright red color but blend in well with pine cones and dead leaves. They will often go into the open to roost in foliage. They are naturally camouflaged and are solitary, as opposed to being found in a colony. These bats can also maintain life through colder temperatures, including subfreezing ones.



Courtesy Of The U.S. Geological Survey

These bats are about three to four inches in length and can vary slightly in color from males to females. They will also migrate south for the winter months, which can provide relief to homeowners in the northeastern part of the US.



Courtesy Of Magnus Manske - For The US Forest Service

SEMINOLE BAT

The Seminole bat, or *Lasiurus seminolus*, is closely associated with Spanish moss. Wherever the moss is found, it's likely that bats are somewhere in the vicinity. They can roost as low as 1 foot from the ground in an effort to be closer to the clumps of moss. They are found more predominantly in the Deep South and do not hibernate. They stay active throughout the year.



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These bats are characterized by a tan body as well as a dark brown to black wing structure, tail, and ears that are almost double in length than many other bat species. Little is known about their eating habits, though they have been seen eating stationary insects.

The Seminole bat is commonly confused for the red bat because of the similar characteristics. The fur on the Seminole bat is a mahogany color and they have a general size of about 10 inches in length. For a long time, it was thought that the two bats were one and the same but the skull had a different shape and finally DNA analysis showed that they were in fact two different species.

SILVER-HAIRED BAT

The silver-haired bat, known as *Lasionycteris noctivagans*, is one of the most common bats found in the forests of North America, particularly in old growth. Small hollows are the nesting site of choice for these bats. Higher density woods are particularly of interest to the silver-haired bats and they will also go into cave entrances. They will eat spiders and other soft-bodied insects. This species has also been known to carry rabies.

These bats are almost entirely black and very furry. The fur is white-tipped, giving the bat its name. They are smaller than the average bat and have a total length of about 2 to 3 inches.



Courtesy Of The Nation Park Service

SMALL-FOOTED BAT

The western small-footed bat, also known as the *Myotis ciliolabrum*, will use caves or mines as its habitat more than anything else. They are found throughout Canada and some parts of the western United States. They are often confused with some of the other bats in the region, including the small-footed dark-nosed bats and the California myotis. These bats are not a concern when it comes to conservation. They are a species of vesper bats like many others in the U.S.



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Courtesy Of The USFWS

For purposes of classification, these small-footed bats are dark brown with a slight whitish gray color on the fur tips with oblong shaped ears that are also dark brown. They are smaller in size compared to other bats and have an overall body length of around four inches.

There are many other bats that can be found throughout the United

States including the big free-tailed bat, canyon bat, spotted bat, Mexican free-tailed bat, and dozens of others. While they are seen, the ones that are listed are the most common, particularly along the east coast of the U.S.

HABITAT & NESTING OF BATS

After reading through the various types of bats, you will find that their habitat can vary dramatically depending on the species. They can be found throughout North America and over 40 different species have been found throughout the country. Without knowing the type of bat, it will be impossible to determine the habitat.

Bats can be found in heavily wooded areas or in caves. They can also gravitate towards man-made structures including buildings, barns, and homes. Some species will prefer a solitary lifestyle while others will live in colonies that consist of hundreds or even thousands of bats. The colonies of bats are certainly easier to detect. Those that are solitary may also be on the conservation list, which means getting rid of them must be done with the highest level of care so as not to kill them.

Regardless of where a bat calls home, it must deal with its surroundings. There are some bats that choose warmer climates so that they can remain active throughout the entire year. Others will migrate during the winter months while others will hibernate as a way of escaping the cold. This will provide several



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months of inactivity. The species that migrate also provide opportunities to bat-proof while they are gone.

The nesting of bats is a complicated process that must be understood. Particularly when you have a bat problem, you have to exercise caution to ensure that you do not eliminate bats during the nesting period as you could kill them off. Particularly if they are on the protected species list, you could encounter fines for killing them.

Bats reproduce slower than any other mammal of their size. The gestation will range from 40 days to 6 months depending upon the size and species of the bat. The litter size is usually that of a single pup, though that, too, can vary depending on species. Generally speaking, three is the maximum that a female bat will have at a time.



Courtesy Of Nnolf

When the pup is born, it is already at 25 percent of the mother's body weight. To put that into perspective, that would be like a human giving birth to a 30 or 40 pound baby. The offspring is cared for by the females within the colonies. These are commonly referred to as maternity colonies as the male bats do not help raise pups and the females will congregate to help raise the young together.

It takes several weeks for pups to be able to fend for themselves. During this time, if the adults are killed while trying to remove them from your home (or you proof your home with pups inside), the pups will die because they do not yet know how to care for themselves.

When you have a bat problem, it is important to know when the nesting period is so you know when and how to deal with the problem. The maternity season ranges from May 1 through August 31. You want to make sure that you don't get



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rid of the problem until after this time so that you can ensure the bat pups are born and able to survive on their own before forcing them out of your home or other building.

You also want to try and avoid getting rid of the bat population during the winter months where they may be hibernating. The reason for this is because they will not be able to survive outside. Should you kill the bat population in the area, it can have a negative impact on the ecosystem. You don't want to see the bats gone because they can eat so many different bugs and insects. This can help to keep crops alive and mosquitoes from biting you.

Once you can identify the species that you are having problems with, you can understand more about the nesting as well as the hibernating aspects of the bats. This will let you know the prime time in which you can take action around your home or other building.



DANGER OF HAVING BATS IN YOUR HOME OR BUILDING

There are plenty of dangers associated with having bats in your home or any other building. While bats play an important role inside the ecosystem, it doesn't mean that you want them flying around your home or overhead. Often times, you won't hear or see them until nightfall. Even then, you probably won't know that they are there because you are inside and they are flying in and out of your home without you seeing it.

Sometimes you will see them flying overhead or hearing them as they wake up and take flight. Once you get to this stage, you likely have a bigger problem that you thought.

The CDC warns that bats are associated with a number of deadly diseases and you want to make sure that you keep you and your family safe when there are bat problems.

Rabies is perhaps the most well-known disease that these pests are associated with. Dogs and raccoons can carry them and bats can as well.

There are a few ways that rabies can be transmitted; a bite or when their saliva comes into contact with a person's mouth, eyes, nose, or open wound

As soon as you have been exposed to rabies, it is important to go in and get the vaccine. Rabies can be fatal if a person becomes infected and symptoms begin to show. Approximately 300,000 people receive the PEP vaccine for rabies every year because of exposure to an animal with rabies – and bats are included within this number.

Histoplasmosis is a lung disease that is associated with bats. The symptoms can vary, but if it is untreated, the results can be fatal.

Diseases Associated With Bats:

- Rabies
- Histoplasmosis
- Marburg
- Hemorrhagic Fever
- Ebola
- Nipah
- Hendra
- Coronaviruses



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Bats don't just live in caves and it's important to know that they can be in your home. You want to keep your family safe and if you have bats flying around with rabies or other diseases, you don't know how safe you can really be. While bats won't typically bite unless they feel threatened, there have been cases where people have been bit by one while sleeping.

Even the bat droppings, known as guano, pose a health risk. It can contaminate the soil and result in infectious spores being released once the soil is disturbed. If there are droppings in your vegetable garden or anywhere else, it can result in you and your family getting very sick. Histoplasmosis is caused by the fungus that grows in the soil that contains the bat guano, so it's another reason why you want to be on the lookout for bats in and around your home and other structures.

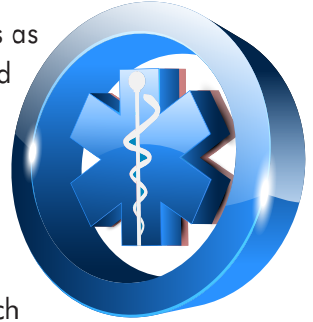
While rabies and histoplasmosis are the two diseases that you have to worry about in the United States, there are countless other diseases associated with bats in other parts of the world. This includes such this as the Marburg hemorrhagic fever, Ebola, Nipah, Hendra, and coronaviruses. You never know when a bat from somewhere else has been carried over in a container ship or elsewhere, so it's best to use extreme caution when there are bats around.

Anytime there are materials that are contaminated with bat droppings, they will need to be either decontaminated or disposed of. Local and state authorities can



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provide you with information on the removal requirements as well as how to dispose of everything. PPE and trained personnel should be involved with the cleanup to avoid coming into contact with infectious materials.



Most people are aware of whether they have been bitten by a bat, but they have small teeth and it is not always the easiest thing to identify. Certain circumstances exist in which you may want to assume that you have been bitten to be able to get the rabies shot and know to monitor your health more closely. This includes waking up to find a bat in your room, finding a bat in or around an unattended child or a person with a disability. Local authorities should be called at any time a bat is located and there may be someone sent out in order to collect the dead bats or to capture a live one in order to conduct rabies testing.

Being bitten and being exposed to them and their guano is only a portion of the dangers associated with having bats around. In some instances, you may also experience problems within your home. If there is a crevice in which a bat can get in, they are going to use this on a regular basis to fly in and out of the building. Over time, the crevice may get larger as a result of extended use. In addition to bats flying in and out during the evening, it may lead to more pests coming in during the day. While the bats may eat them, they may not – and then you have an array of problems.

You may also encounter an entire colony living inside your home. Bats go for dark areas and the inside of your walls provide the perfect habitat in many cases. As the amount of guano and urine builds up on the inside of the walls and such, it is going to begin to create a foul odor and this is not something that you want to deal with. The more bats you have, the worse it is going to smell.

The bat guano and urine can also begin to cause rot within the wood of a structure. If you have a colony of hundreds or even thousands (and it has been seen), it is going to start to disintegrate the wood and this can lead to the structural integrity being called into question. While this does not happen often, it does happen when colonies are allowed to grow to large numbers without having them removed.





DETERMINING IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH BATS

Bats are a fairly common problem, especially throughout the northeastern part of the United States. If you have bats, know that you are not alone. It's unlikely that a bat is simply going to fly in through an open window. They don't want to deal with you just as much as you don't want to deal with them. If a bat does come into the main part of the house, such as a living room or bedroom, it was likely by accident.

It's hard to know if you have a problem with bats sometimes. The obvious signs of seeing or hearing bats are not always there. Some people have entire colonies of bats living in their attics and are none the wiser for it. It's always a good idea to determine if you have them so you know how to deal with them and be aware for the purpose of staying clear so that you don't get bitten or come into contact with the bat guano.

A visual inspection is always a good idea. This involves checking all areas of your home, including boards, shingles, and tiles that are loose. All it takes is an



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opening of less than an inch in order for a bat to get inside. Once they are inside, they will be able to find a dark spot in order to rest during the day. You may never hear them, especially if you live in a fairly noisy neighborhood.

Going outside and looking up at your home at dusk is an important aspect of the inspection process. The reason is because they are going to fly in and out. If you see bats flying around your home, it's likely that they have found a way inside. This means that they are leaving bat guano and could be reproducing inside your home as well – and this poses an array of other problems.

There are all sorts of signs that you can look at for bats. This includes a visual of bats, seeing bat guano or hearing sounds in your attic

Signs You May Have Bats:

- Visual Sighting Of Bats
- Presents Of Bat Guano
- Sounds In Your Attic

While you cannot know for sure that they are inside your home until you have a visual, there are things that you can do. You can call a bat expert to make the inspection on your behalf. They will be able to identify the type of bat and let you know whether you have one or two or an entire colony of bats. From there, it will be easier to take action.

When you have a problem with bats, there are 0way due to the time of year, you can at least get things lined up so that you have a plan when the time is right.





HOW TO GET RID OF BATS

Getting rid of bats needs to be done the proper way because they are vital to the ecosystem. Bats are responsible for eating thousands of insects, including mosquitoes. Having them in the community is good, though you don't want them inside your home.

Knowing the maternity season of bats is important because you don't want to evacuate bats when you have a nursing colony going on. The "pups" or baby bats will die when the adults are removed. This is inhumane and it causes more problems because the carcasses need to be removed and can be hard to find and get rid of when they are small. Newborn bats take approximately five weeks to be able to fend for themselves, so you may have to wait during this time. May 1 through August 31 is the standard maternity season for North America.

It's important to locate the points of entry. You can look for bat guano (droppings), which has a sparkly appearance in the sunshine. Don't breathe near the droppings. Check around screens, loose shingles, where boards have come loose,

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and where walls meet the eaves near an attic. Most bats are going to choose locations that are at least 8 feet high, so your problems are most likely going to be on the second or even third floor depending on where you live.



You want to evacuate the bats and this will involve calling in a bat expert. Once the bats have been removed, which is done by forcing them out, not by killing them, you want to prevent any kind of re-entry. You can do this repeatedly with sealing so when they leave, you cover the openings. You can then watch at night to see if they are getting in anywhere else and do it again.

The other method is to use a one-way device, where all devices are removed and holes are sealed permanently with netting and caulk.

If there are bats outside your home that you want to get rid of, place a few mothballs into a piece of cheese cloth to create a sack. Then, when the bats fly away from an area, tie the sack to where they are nesting. The odor will prevent them from settling in. Bats tend to return to older sites, so this process may need to be repeated more than once.

Other methods can include using an aerosol cat or dog repellent as well as hanging mylar balloons or even strips of tin foil near the roosting areas so that they can move in the breeze.

Bats are probably going to hang out in all sorts of crevices and even behind walls. You don't want to try and capture them because it is unlikely that you will capture them all. It's best to keep watching them to see when they fly out so that you can seal up a form of entry.

Remember that bats can carry diseases, so you don't want to try any methods when they are around. Wait until they fly away to hang a sack from their nest or to spray anything around. When in doubt, hire a bat professional to come and treat your home or other building.



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A live exclusion is the only way to go when it comes to removing bats. While this may be a time consuming process, it is the only process for a few simple reasons.

1. Poison and fumigants cannot be used. It is illegal to kill the bats and you don't want to experience the death of a bunch of bats inside of a building as that will involve a considerable amount of cleanup that can be very dangerous to deal with.
2. Bat traps don't exist and are almost pointless because there is no sure way to know how many of them are inside of a structure.
3. Sealing the entry holes at night is not a sure way to deal with the problem. 100% of the colony never leaves at once, so sealing the holes is only going to result in some of the bats being trapped on the inside of the building.



4. Bat houses are rarely effective as it does not lure the bats from the attic or other structure. Bats have to discover their living areas on their own and some bat houses will remain empty for years.

If you find a random bat in a living area, such as a home office or a bedroom, there are various ways that you can get rid of it. The easiest way is to open up the windows and let the bat fly out on its own. If it doesn't want to leave, you can try trapping it using a net or a shoe box and then releasing it outside where it will fly away. You can also try and use a towel or something else to cover it with so that you can bring it outside. You should use caution when doing this and it's a good idea to wear gloves. Remember that killing bats is illegal, so you should make sure it is kept alive while you remove it from your house.



There is also the task of cleaning up bat guano. Obviously, if you had a colony of a hundred bats, there is a lot more guano to clean up than if you had one or two inside of a structure. Cleaning up the guano is filthy and can be dangerous. If you plan on doing the cleaning on your own, it has to be done with the right amount of equipment and protective gear. You cannot simply climb into the attic and begin shoveling the guano because you have to be concerned with the fungus that can exist inside that causes lung problems and could carry various diseases.

Don'ts To Bat Removal:

- Do NOT Use Poisons Or Fumigation
- Bat Traps Don't Exist
- Don't Seal the Entry Hole
- Bat Houses Don't Work

You want to use gloves, a well-made mask, and plenty of protective clothing. Keeping the guano damp is a good idea so that fewer spores become airborne. You can use an enzyme-based microbial solvent to keep the guano moistened and ensure the fungal spores don't make it into the air. If you cannot find the spray, then use a disinfectant or water. You can then begin shoveling the guano and bagging it up. Depending on where you live, there are removal standards for guano and so you will want to check with the authorities.

If the idea of shoveling guano doesn't sound like your idea of a good time, you can hire a professional clean-up crew. They will do all of the work that involves wearing the PPE, cleaning the guano, and removing it. They will also do the discarding per the regulations set by your county, if applicable.

With plenty of ways to get rid of bats and bat guano, your problems can be over in a relatively short period of time. The more you know about bats and how to deal with them, the easier it is for you to address the problem when it arises. When you live in areas where bats are more prominent, it's likely that you will go through such problems fairly often.

There are things that you can do to prevent bat problems. The next chapter will cover how you can ensure you don't get bats into your home or other building again.



ABATEMENT CLEANING PROCEDURES

1. Proper cleaning and sanitation should abate the affected surfaces requiring Bat feces abatement. These steps are as follows:



- a. Surfaces contaminated with Bat feces are first saturated with a solution (that can be applied with any type of pressured sprayer), for example Simple Green, to reduce formation of dust aerosols before removal of the feces is attempted. The treated Bat feces shall then be shoveled, scooped or scrapped into double plastic 3-mil bags.
 - b. "Simple Green," is safe to both the environment and livestock. (Note that Simple Green is biodegradable and non-toxic. This product is a safer alternative to other cleaners; the Simple Green product is also a degreaser and deodorizer. (See MSDS for product specific information)) After the Simple Green is sprayed, it will be left on the surface for approximately 15-30 minutes. The Simple Green will liquefy the Bat droppings.
 - c. The remaining fecal residue must then be wet scrubbed again with a cleaning solution (e.g. Simple Green) and wiped clean.
 - d. At the customer's request, any remaining stained areas can be steamed cleaned with a commercial grade steamer. By utilizing a steam cleaner, zero pressure should be maintained and will be able to thoroughly sanitize any remaining microbial contamination.
2. Note that plastic brushes and/or scrapers should be utilized in critical areas to avoid damaging any finishes during the cleaning process. Metal brushes and scrapers should not be used on visible surface areas.



HOW TO PREVENT BAT PROBLEMS

You don't want to deal with bats in your home or any other building and there are ways to prevent this. By bat-proofing buildings, you can save time and money. Don't assume that bats won't get into your house if you haven't taken some precautions. Around the US, there are all sorts of problems with bats.

Various ways to prevent bats include:

1. Look for holes and gaps in the roofing, soffits, vents, and chimneys. Most areas will be at least 8 feet high.
2. Do the inspection at night to see where the nooks and crannies are and potentially see where bats are flying in and out.
3. Use sealant or netting to help with the bat-proofing.

Knowing how the bats are getting into the home or other building is one of the most important aspects of being able to bat proof. When you know where the problems have existed in the past, you know where to concentrate the bulk of your energy. Removing the ways into home or other building is the first step to prevention. Prior to proofing you home, you also want to confirm that there are none already inside; otherwise you are trapping them in, which is not a good idea.

In addition to preventing bats from getting in, you can prevent bats from nesting in particular trees on your property. Knowing the various types of species is half the battle because you will know how to take precautions based upon habitat and nesting styles. Something as simple as hanging moth balls from a tree can ensure you don't have bats lingering on your property. Ultimately, when you have a bat problem, you want to hire a bat expert. Not all exterminators understand how to deal with bats and you want to be able to identify the colony that is living in your home or building and proof everything so that you don't encounter problems in the future. Many species of bats are protected and the time frames for control methods are predetermined. This makes them harder to get rid of than some of the other pests that you may have encountered in the past. The good news is that bats are good for the ecosystem, so keeping them alive is in your best interest. They serve a purpose, but you don't have to provide a home for them. They will go where they can in order to survive and it is up to you to notice whether they have made your home, barn, or other building their home so that you can relocate them to somewhere else.





For More Information On
BATS

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