

## Bats

Gain access through gaps as small as ¼ x ½ inch. (dime size)  
Usually at gaps where materials join such as siding and soffit.  
Also enter at windows and chimneys, attics or cellars.

17 families total. 925 species worldwide. 4 common families and 45 species in N. America.  
Average size of a common mouse.

1 to 2 babies born to one liter. Born in May to June.  
Independent by late summer.

Typically hibernate from October to April. If disturbed, may cause starvation (death) as use up the stored energy.  
Some species do hibernate however.

Nocturnal habits\* – use echolocation and can see well in very low light  
Insectivorous (99% of species)

Only the Silver-haired and the eastern Pipistrelle bats have been infrequently associated with rabies strain.  
Large amounts of droppings may harbor the histoplasmosis fungi spores.

DO NOT try to solve the colony problem from late April to August. You may trap the hibernators or babies inside!

Multi-step removal process: (exterior)

- a) If you suspect you have bats, you will find common dropping piles under the area where they are. Install a 'one way bat check valve'. Install the mesh over an existing hole. Use netting that is 1/6 inch or smaller. Staple up on three sides & do not staple the bottom. Leave in place 5 to 7 days. Bright light and a fan (thereby creating a draft) will be helpful tools to humanely evict.
- b) Once confirmed that they are gone you may seal up tightly with caulk or other means.
- c) Thank the bats for coming, because now that you have sealed up their entrance point your home will be more air tight and energy efficient!
- d) you may want to build a bat house for your native neighbors to remain in the neighborhood. A single bat consumes thousands of insects each night.

Removal: (Interior)

- 1) open the window of the room the bat has been found in. leave the room. The bat will echolocate and discover the open window and gladly leave the premises.
- 2) use a wide mouth plastic container to catch the bat. Allow the bat to land and remain there for @ 30 minutes. The body temp. declines and makes it less able to fly. SLOWLY approach and place the container over the animal. Leather gloves are advised on the rare chance of being pinched by the tiny bat teeth trying to defend itself. Slide a piece of cardboard between the container and the wall (or ceiling) allowing the animal to release the grip and crawl onto the cardboard. Take the animal outside and place the cardboard on a bush or elevated location.

More information may be found from:

Bat Conservation International [www.batcon.org](http://www.batcon.org)

The above information is simply provided for information purposes. We do not endorse any of the organizations. WWW.AHWF.ORG

\* = *although nocturnal it may be common to see them flying about during the day. This does not mean that they are sick! It is unusual for a bat to be disoriented, lethargic, or in an unusual place (on the ground) day or night.*