

Bat proofing your home

Here are steps to take to keep bats out of the home environment, especially sleeping quarters:

- **Close unscreened doors and windows** open to the outside.
- **Use window screens, chimney caps, and draft-guards beneath doors to attics,**
- **Seal up all openings larger than 1/2 inch by 1/2 inch square** into the attic, basement, walls, or occupied areas of the house including electrical and plumbing openings.
 - Use materials such as expanding foam, caulk, wire mesh, wood that fits tightly, steel wool (around pipes that enter buildings) to seal or cover gaps and holes.
- **Listen to see if you hear squeaking noises** coming from attic, walls, or elsewhere.
- **Check** attic space, rafters, porches, and walls for signs of roosting bats, including bat guano and crystallized urine, or bare scratched areas on beams.
- **Walk around the outside of the house** at dusk to see if bats are flying out of the house to feed and before dawn to see if bats are flying into the house to roost.
- **Special netting** can be used to allow bats to exit a house, but not re-enter.
- **Pest control experts** specializing in bat control should be consulted when necessary.
- Killing or poisoning the bats is seldom a necessary or desirable solution.
- **DO NOT seal openings while bats are inside**--this may drive them into occupied areas or create a sanitary problem if the bats are trapped and die inside.
- **Major home renovations and sealing should be done during the winter** when bats have mostly left buildings.

Where Bats Roost

