

# BATS!!

## How to Evict Uninvited Guests



### Single Bat in the House

Individual bats occasionally enter houses, most often during evenings in July and August.

These wayward bats are often the year's young that are just beginning to fly. If you encounter a bat flying in a room, **make sure that no person or pet has had contact with the bat.**

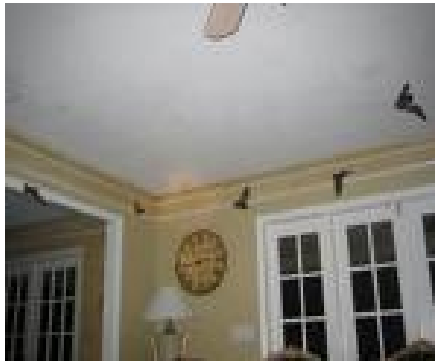
Capture the bat using the following methods but do not release the bat if it was found in a room with a sleeping person, a previously unattended child, or a mentally disabled or intoxicated person.

**If there is any question about possible contact with the bat, do not release it. Contact Animal Control, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 645-5516.**

### Flying Bat

☞ **Remain calm!** Do not chase or swat at the bat. This will only cause it to panic and fly erratically around the room.

☞ Shut all doors leading into other rooms to confine the bat to a single area. Remove pets from the room.



☞ Open all windows (without screens) and doors leading outside to give the bat a chance to escape. There is little chance of other bats flying in from outside, so don't worry.

☞ Leave the lights on, stand quietly against a wall or door, and watch the bat to be certain it actually flies outdoors.

☞ **Do not try to herd the bat toward a window.** Allow it to get its bearings calmly, and don't worry about it swooping at you. It is not going to get tangled in your hair! When indoors, a bat makes steep, banking turns, so it flies upward as it approaches a wall and swoops lower near the center of the room.

Within 10 to 15 minutes the bat should settle down, locate the open door or window, and fly out of the room. If it does not, wait for the bat to rest and follow the instructions below.



### Resting Bat

☞ Put on a pair of heavy leather or work gloves. **Never handle a bat, or any other wild animal, with your bare hands.**

☞ Place a container, such as a large plastic bowl or coffee can, over the bat as

it rests on the wall. The bat will likely be exhausted and disoriented and should not fly when you approach it.

☞ Slide a piece of rigid cardboard (or a magazine or lid from a bowl) between the container and the wall to trap the bat. Hold the cardboard firmly against the container and carry it outside.

☞ If the bat is in a hard-to-reach place, use a fine-meshed insect net with a long pole.

☞ Once you have captured the bat and are certain no people or pets have come into contact with it, place the container on its side on a secure place above the ground – such as on a ledge or against a tree. Be sure the opening is facing away from you; then slide away the cardboard.

If bats continue to enter your home, inspect it, including the attic to determine if you are housing a bat maternity colony.

### Bat Proofing Basics

Once you have determined that you have bats, the best way to bat proof is by exclusion. It is a safe, effective, and humane way of evicting unwanted bats.

☞ **Exclusions should never be done between late May and early August.** This is when the bats are having their pups and the young would be trapped inside.

☞ It is a good idea to put up a bat house before you exclude. It is best to install bat house between May and August, **a year prior to bat-proofing.**

☞ Seal entrances to house between January and April before bats arrive.

☞ Between May and August, when bats are having their pups, watch the bats exiting at dusk to identify openings. **Do not seal them!**

☞ Between September and October install one-way door(s) in identified opening(s). This will let the bats exit but not reenter.

☞ Finally, from November through December, seal the entrances to complete your bat proofing.



### General Bat Proofing Schedule

January	No Bats in Building
February	
March	
April	Seal Entrances Before Bats Arrive
May	
June	Install Bat Houses (One Year in Advance)
July	
August	
September	Identify but <u>DO NOT SEAL</u> Entrances
October	
November	Bats are having pups.
December	
	Install One-way Doors
	Seal Entrances and Complete Bat Proofing