



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BAT HOUSES IN ATLANTIC CANADA

MATERIALS

- Use an untreated wood resistant to decay/decomposition
- 1/2" thick exterior-grade plywood &/or cedar is recommended with construction-grade wood screws
- Shingling the roof further prevents water damage
- Add openings for ventilation & a landing strip



SIZE AND QUANTITY

- Multiple (ideally 4) chambers that are parallel to the front & 3/4-1' wide are recommended (depending on species, see below)
- Larger bat houses (~ 1.5' W x 2.5' H x 4.5' D) support variable microclimates & more bats
- More bat houses (ideally 2-3 within 100m) offer the important ability to switch roosts



COLOUR & LIGHT

- Paint the bat house using a water-based, non-toxic, dark paint to increase the heat retention
- Increase the amount of solar exposure by avoiding shaded areas
- Avoid artificial lights near the bat house



PLACEMENT

- Install the exit 10-16' off the ground in an area away from predators (e.g., cats, owls, squirrels)
- If possible, place the bat house in full sun facing south or east, maximizing solar exposure
- Chambered bat houses installed on buildings typically attract bats more than those on trees



SURROUNDINGS

- Ensure vegetation/objects do not obstruct the entrance of the bat house
- Make sure there's nothing below the bat house that bats could fall into & get trapped (e.g., buckets)
- Maintain natural roosts (standing dead trees & trees with crevices/holes) & foraging habitats in the surrounding area



TYPES OF BAT HOUSES

- Chambered bat houses are most successful when installed on the side of a building (e.g., house/shed)
- Rocket boxes can be placed on a standalone post in more open habitats
- Bat condos are some of the largest bat houses



SPECIES OF BATS

- Little Brown Myotis are the most likely species to use bat houses in Atlantic Canada & prefer narrow chambers (3/4")
- Big Brown Bats (range in NB) will use bat houses, but prefer slightly wider chambers (1-1.5")
- Northern Myotis are less likely, though they may occasionally use bat houses with narrow chambers (3/4")



COMMITMENT

- Bat boxes can overheat on hot summer days; monitor the temperature & learn how/when to cool the houses (>40°C inside the bat house is too warm)
- Humans & their pets are rarely affected by diseases of bats; be sure to inform yourself on how best to minimize this potential risk & avoid coming in direct contact with bats
- Bat houses may need maintenance every couple of years
- Report bats sightings (1-833-434-2284)

