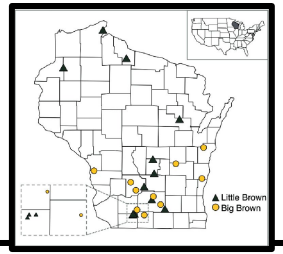
About the Bats

Wisconsin has 8 species of bats but there are over 1400 species worldwide.







An estimated 52% of North American bat species are at risk of severe population declines.

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Habitat Conservation
As forests are cleared or old buildings are torn down, bats lose their natural roosts. Bat houses help fill that gap, offering a place for them to sleep during the day and raise their young.



Education & Observation
Installing a bat house can provide a unique opportunity to learn about bats and observe them in a safe and non-intrusive way.





Why Bat Houses?

Why Bats?

Bats in Wisconsin play a crucial role in controlling insect populations. A single bat can consume up to 1,000 mosquito-sized insects per hour and may eat its body weight in insects each night. This provides significant ecological and economic benefits by reducing the need for chemical pesticides and helping to control insect-borne diseases.







Studies have shown that bats' diets include a variety of insect species. For instance, research from UW-Madison identified that little brown bats and big brown bats consume at least 17 different mosquito species, including nine known to carry the West Nile virus.

Bat House Installation Instructions:

1. Choose the Right Location

Height: Place the bat house at least 10-15 feet above the ground. Bats prefer higher placements for safety and temperature regulation. Sun

Exposure: Bat houses should receive 6+ hours of sunlight a day, particularly in the morning or early afternoon. This helps maintain the right temperature inside the house.

Safety: Avoid placing bat houses near areas with lots of human activity or predators (e.g., cats, dogs, or raccoons). Ideally, put them in a secluded or quiet part of your yard.

Nearby Water Source: Bats are often found near water (streams, ponds, lakes) because of their food sources (insects). Having water nearby increases the likelihood of bats finding your house.

2. Mounting the Bat House

Pole Mounting: Mounting the bat house on a pole is ideal. Use a metal or wooden pole that is sturdy enough to support the house and resist falling. This also keeps the house safe from predators.

Tree Mounting: If you must mount the house on a tree, place it on a tree that is at least 10 feet tall, with little foliage to allow access to the house. Avoid dense canopies that block sunlight.

Angle: Mount the bat house so that the entrance faces east or south, which ensures it gets morning or afternoon sun.

Secure Fastening: Use strong screws, nails, or specialized mounting brackets to attach the bat house securely. The house should be stable and not swing or wobble.

3. Placement Guidelines

Away from Lights: Avoid placing the bat house in areas with bright lights, as bats prefer darkness and will avoid lit-up areas.

Avoid Windy Areas: If possible, don't place the bat house in areas with strong winds. Bats prefer sheltered, calm spots.

Near Food Sources: Bats hunt for insects like mosquitoes, moths, and beetles. Placing the house near gardens, orchards, or natural habitats helps ensure a healthy food supply.

Best Time: Install the bat house in early spring or late fall, before bats arrive for the season or when they are migrating. This gives them time to discover the house and settle in.

Be Patient: Bats can take time to find and occupy a bat house, sometimes up to a year or more. Be patient and avoid disturbing the house frequently.



Cleaning: Bat houses should be cleaned out once a year, ideally in the late fall after bats have left for migration. Use a brush or a mild cleaner to remove guano (bat droppings) to prevent disease and parasites.

