


WHY INSTALL A BAT HOUSE?

- Bat houses can be a great alternative roosting opportunity for bats that have recently lost a roost. For example, if there was a loss of natural tree roosts or if bats were excluded from a previous roost (e.g., building/sheds/ attics).
 - If you choose to exclude bats, be sure to wait until the appropriate time of year (NOT May to Aug).
- Bat houses provide shelter from predators & protection from weather elements.
- Bat houses allow a safe place for mothers to nurse their young.
- A properly installed bat house can allow you to get involved with bat monitoring & conservation
 - Call the Atlantic Bat Hotline to get involved:

 **1 (833) 434-2287**

Visit https://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/bat_health_resources.php#bats-in-buildings for more information



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 bat sightings to the Atlantic Bat Hotline yearly & ask to get involved with colony counts

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 & QUANTITY



- Multiple (ideally 4) chambers that are parallel to the front & 3/4–1" wide are recommended, depending on species:
 - Little Brown Myotis are the most likely species to use bat houses in Atlantic Canada & prefer narrow chambers (3/4" W)
 - Big Brown Bats (range in NB) will use bat houses, but prefer slightly wider chambers (1–1.5" W)
 - Northern Myotis may occasionally use bat houses & prefer narrow chambers (3/4" W)
- 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

COLOR & LIGHT

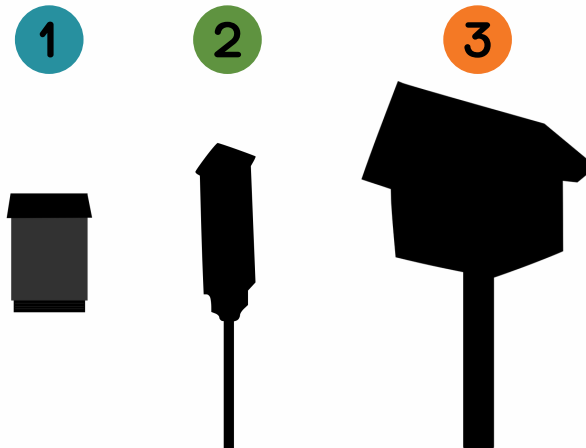
- Paint the bat house using a water-based, non-toxic, dark paint to increase the heat retention
- Increase the amount of solar exposure by avoiding shaded areas
- Avoid artificial lights near the bat house

TYPES OF BAT HOUSES

1 Multi-chambered bat houses are most successful when installed on the side of a building (house/shed)

2 Rocket boxes can be placed on a standalone post in more open habitats

3 Bat condos are some of the largest bat houses, used to support 100s–1,000s of bats



PLACEMENT



- Install the exit 10–16' off the ground in an area away from predators (e.g., cats, owls, squirrels, etc.)
- 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