



BAT EXCLUSION

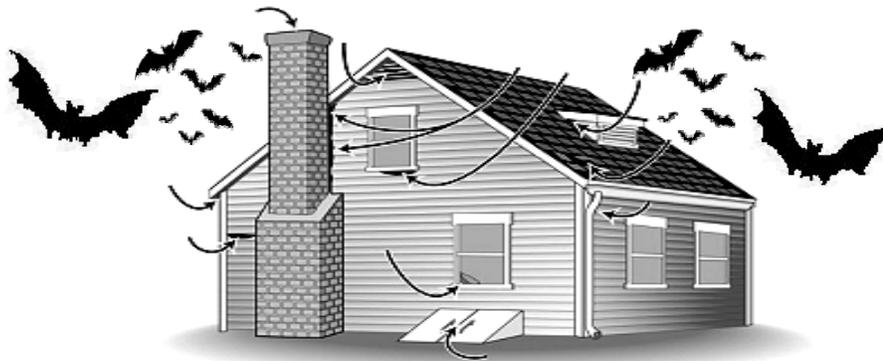
HOW TO KEEP BATS OUT OF MY HOUSE

Bats are among the most unique and fascinating of all animals. They are neither rodents nor birds. Rather, they are the only mammals that fly. Bats are not blind. They use echolocation to find flying insects at night. They will not suck your blood. And most do not have rabies. Bats play key roles in ecosystems around the globe, from rainforests to deserts, especially by eating insects, including agricultural pests, and by aiding in the pollination of numerous plant species. While most bats feed exclusively on insects, consuming many pest species, they prefer to expend the least amount of energy to obtain the most food. Thus bats typically capture larger insects, such as night-flying moths, and do not live up to their reputation for controlling mosquitoes. Considered mostly beneficial, in certain situations, bats can pose a threat to human health. The best protection we can offer these unique mammals is to learn more about their habits and recognize the value of living safely with them. The most common bat species in our area is the Little Brown Bat, *Myotis lucifugus*.

Exclusion remains the best way to prevent and control bats in a structure!

- Bats can be excluded by sealing exterior openings (into the attic, basement, walls or occupied areas of the house) larger than ½-inch using caulk, expandable foam, plywood, mortar, metal flashing, steel wool or ¼-inch mesh screen or netting
- Make sure doors, windows and vents have screens and are securely framed; make sure chimneys are capped; make sure gaps around utility lines are plugged
- Do not leave unscreened doors and windows open to the outside

Look for these bat entry points:



To determine if bats are already in a house, evidence can be obtained by:

- Listening for squeaking noises coming from attic, walls or elsewhere
- Inspecting attic space, rafters, porches and walls for roosting bats droppings (guano), crystalized urine or bare scratched areas on beams
- Observing the outside of your house at dusk to see if bats fly out of the house to feed or before dawn to see if bats fly into the house to roost

Bat exclusion techniques should include the following considerations:

- 1- Observe the house at dusk or dawn for bat exit and entry points
- 2- Use special netting in a manner that allows bats to exit the house, but not re-enter
- 3- DO NOT SEAL exit or entry openings while bats are inside. Doing so may drive them into occupied areas or create an unsanitary condition if bats are trapped and die inside
- 4- Major home renovations and sealing of entry points should be done during winter when most bats leave structure to hibernate
- 5- Killing or poisoning bats is seldom a necessary or desirable solution
- 6- Pest control experts specializing in bat control should be consulted when necessary

Several pest control experts serving our region are listed below

Absolute Animal Control
Wildlife Removal Services

Specializing in the humane removal of bats
716-713-5205

Comfort Pest Control

716-488-2811, 716-665-2004 or
716-366-2120

Nuisance-No-More
Bat and Wildlife Removal of WNY

716-560-0960

Souther Tier
Professional Pest Control

716-358-2207

Broad Coverage Companies

United Bat Control, LLC

866-747-BATS (2287)

Bat Technologies

Humane Bat Removal
John Lafforthun 518-376-2520
www.gotbats.com

For further information go to:

www.cdc.gov/rabies/
www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/rabies/
www.batcon.org

Or contact the Chautauqua County Health Department toll free 1-866-604-6789 or

Mayville Office

7 North Erie Street Mayville, NY 14757
716-753-4481

Jamestown Office

110 East 4th Street Jamestown, NY 14701
716-661-8110

Dunkirk Office

1170 Central Avenue Dunkirk, NY 14048
716-366-8831

