

How to maximize the success of your bat house

- Set up bat houses at the beginning of April before the birthing season or at the end of the summer
- Bats seek out heat. Ensure that your bat house faces south or southwest in such a way that it receives as much sunlight as possible, in order to maintain an elevated temperature inside (ideally, 8 to 10 hours of sunlight a day) The best option is the warmest part of your property, where there is little to no shade
- Install the bat house at least 3 meters above the ground on a building or pole to avoid predators (the higher the better 5-6m). Bat houses set up in trees are more difficult for the bats to find, but can work in a pinch
- Make horizontal saw marks at 2 cm intervals on the bat house's inner boards so that the bats can hang on to them more easily
- Make sure that the approach zone is not blocked for easy access in and out of the bat house (remove any obstacles or branches)
- If you can, place at least two bat houses in the same place, which will allow the bats to choose the one with the optimum temperature for their needs, and move between roosts if necessary
- Do not place bat houses near bright, artificial light sources, such as street lamps
- Caulk your bat house well in order to stop light and water from entering
- Paint the outside of the bat house black or dark brown in order to increase the internal temperature. Use water-based paint, not oil-based paint and apply three coats. You can also cover the roof with asphalt shingles
- Do not use treated wood because it could contain chemical products that are toxic for bats
- Preferably, use galvanized screws instead of nails for the exterior
- If your bat house has not been used after two years, move it somewhere else
- When the bat house is in use, avoid disrupting the bats inside.

