

# DIY Bat Removal Handbook

The definitive “Do it yourself handbook”

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## Disclaimer:

**There is no substitute for hiring an experienced professional.** Methods described herein are for informational purposes only and cannot stop you from falling off of a ladder, contracting a disease, or otherwise hurting yourself or another in trying to resolve an animal issue on your own. This is not an accredited course and does not certify an individual to perform this type of work.

Accidents happen, please do not attempt anything outside of your comfort zone; follow any and all labels, directions, and warnings on any equipment used.

**Safety is a real concern** and by simply reading this you are not legally authorized to perform wildlife control in your state. Be sure to know and abide by all rules and regulations both state and federal regarding the species you're working with. You must do more research than what is found in this manual, however I have taken much time to assemble the best information I could find at the time of this writing ( in my opinion). You should realize that this type of work often requires experience both from a bat removal stand point as well as from one of safety. This document should be viewed more along the lines of "how to hire a pro while understanding what it takes to perform the work".

## Bats!

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Determine the scope of the bat removal. If you have a bat in the house you need to not only get it out but figure out HOW it got into the house in the first place, that's step two, step 3 is the actual removal to include repairs and step four is cleaning up the mess they can leave behind. I will try to break each step down and explain the "why" and the "how to" and finally give you some direction to a list of professionals should you desire one.

### Bat in the house:

**If you know where it is**, for example you can see it...you can wait until it lands and place a coffee can or similar container over it and slide a piece of cardboard between the lid and the wall. Sometimes the bat may be flying around a room – in this case you can turn on a ceiling fan and cause him to fly around it rather than all over the place. If you have a net you may be able to net him or her easier in the air currents created by the fan however often the bat gets hit by the fan and injured. This could cause it to get thrown at you or a bystander and isn't really a great idea for those reasons. Caution and judgment must be used to determine the best course of action. I prefer to work alone in these situations.

**If you saw a bat and no longer know where it is** you will want to find it. Where do you look and should you spend the night at your house? I say if you cannot locate the bat, you should not go to sleep until you do or you are certain it left or is no longer present. Bats can carry rabies and do not necessarily show the signs and symptoms – the great part is very few bats test positive. The bad part: rabies is 99.9% fatal once the symptoms develop so you'll need to spend the \$\$\$ on the rabies shots if you have been exposed. **Rabies shots can cost about 2k.**

Here are a few tips to help locate a hiding bat.

- Wear gloves – safety first!
- Look between appliances
- Listen for chirps or high pitched ticks
- Look behind wall hangings and in drapes
- Close off the room that the bat was last seen in
- Watch your pets in you have them – they hear and smell better, remember to keep them safe too!
- Be patient, often the bat will re-emerge in the evening time, this is true if the bat was originally discovered in the morning and not found.
- I sometimes jingle my keys, I believe they respond to the noise so you may hear the bat chirp
- Once the bat has been removed – next you will want to investigate the point of entry.

## Colony Inspection:

Once the bat is safely removed, the situation may not be over. You will want to walk around the inside of the house to try and figure out how it got from outside, or from the attic area to inside – with you.

### Inside:

You may smell a musky odor; try to remember how long ago it was that you first noticed it. Often time's people tell me they thought that their dog was urinating in that room – but it was the bats all along.

Common points of entry to the living area of the house are

- ceiling fan housings
- can-lights
- missing wall trim
- holes in sheetrock
- the A/C closet (the base of the door to it)
- the attic stairs, especially if it is a drop down type.
- **Be warned that there may be more than one bat already lurking in these areas.**

### Outside:

Walking around the outside of the house to determine how the bat got in there in the first place may lead you to the discovery of an entire colony of bats! This is where the eye of an expert can really help. Finding all of the points of entry can be tricky but a few tips might help you locate them.

The point of entry will depend on the type of construction and vary widely. What is true on one house may not be true on another. Locating the exit and entry points can be best found by the beginner in the evening and the early morning. Watching the bats exit the structure is as fascinating as watching them return at daybreak!

### Common points of entry/exit are:

- where brick walls meet the vinyl siding overhang
- Gable ends
- Holes in roofline
- Ridge cap, at ends or anywhere along the entire length
- Missing woodwork
- Dormer roof returns
- Dark dirty looking spots (often little flecks of what might appear to be lizard droppings will be stuck to the wall around the hole)
- If you have a metal roof – every single vein or “raised portion” of the metal roof as well as the flat parts in the ridge cap where the foam inserts have been omitted.
- If you can put a pencil in the hole – it needs filled.
- Missing window trim
- Missing garage trim

Watch the house at night and watch the bats exit – watch them return in the morning too! This is not a job for the couch potatoes, this is a job for someone with the wherewithal to get it done and get it done RIGHT! Know your bats – **know when they come and go and know how they do it!**



# Bat Colony Removal:

## Introduction:

I have read some of the online help out there and I can say for sure and of a certainty that it is dead wrong. Some of the myths that are common are things like saying that a bat removal **MUST** be done between mid-august and mid-may since this is the time when the young are weaned and can fly; but of a truth – this may or may not be true depending on the species as well as the area of the country you are in. Different species vary on their seasonal mating and some species are loners. Again, this is best determined by an area expert. Do not hesitate to call a few local experts and ask some questions. To say that bat removal any other time of the year is inhumane is simply wrong. The sooner they are evicted from the time of their arrival, the better. Chances are if they just got there – they didn't just give birth. The timing of the bat removal can be adjusted to accommodate the birthing season especially if you have been living with them for a while already! Working with the birthing season would assume that the bats have been there for a while and that you are truly dealing with a maternal colony. You should know the bat species in your area before deciding to evict them as well as approximately how long you have had them living in your home.

Bats may just be emerging from your home in the springtime, or they may have just flown there. I will state again, ask an area expert – a local guy who knows bats and knows the type of bats you typically find in your part of the world. It is quite satisfying to evict the bats back into the wild knowing that although they cannot live in your home – you are not harming them in the process. Do not assimilate human needs to them, they are creatures of the night and lived somewhere prior to your home. If they are a migratory species they may already have a place to go. Some websites will recommend that you put up a bat house – I do not. Feel free to make your own decision, but I cannot recommend anyone remove them from their home for health reasons and recommend that they move them adjacent to it. It makes no sense to me at all.

If you're ready to remove the bats for good through the best method – the eviction process, then read on to find out how to do it.

## The Eviction Process:

I like to use **netting** and feel it has been given a bad name by its misuse. There are those who have killed the bats with the netting rather than use it as a one way door. Basically you **hang the netting in front of the entry/exit crevice so that the bats can exit** and on their return not be able to get past it. Care should be taken to avoid draping it directly on horizontal surfaces and trapping the bats in the netting on a hot roof. Netting should really only be used in vertical situations. A quick Google image search (or any internet search engine) using the term "bat eviction netting" or "bat eviction tube" will yield some great pictures of the proper use of bat netting and tubes. Sometimes it helps to know **WHAT** to search for so you can figure this out.

Another good method is the tube method; again a quick Google image search (or any internet search engine) should be very self-explanatory. I also like to use 3 mil trash bags on occasion. I take the bag and attach the open end over the hole, let the bag hang and cut open the bottom leaving a nice chute similar to a pillow case with an open end. The bats slide out and on their return they cannot figure out that all they need to do is go to the end of the bag and climb up but instead they fly at the building searching for re-entry there!

The most important thing in setting up your eviction device is to be sure that you seal up all of the other possible places that a bat could get into before you install the one way doors. Remember, what you want to do is evict them for good not chase them to the other side of the structure! This can be accomplished by knowing where they are gaining access and knowing that every little crevice must be sealed.

What should you seal these cracks and crevices with? Let's cover that.

I personally use caulking and a lot of it. I recommend a caulk that matches your building materials and will withstand the outdoor temperatures. Ask your local hardware supplier what they might recommend in your area. Do NOT caulk the bats in! This is the most important part of caulking! If you do not know what you are doing at this point, hire a pro! Do not hire a carpenter to do the job of a wildlife control expert!

You should replace rotting woodwork, bent metal and torn vinyl – whatever it takes to rebuild your home – bat proof. Working on a crazy pitched roof such as the one shown below could injure you severely – be safe and hire a pro!

Chimneys present special problems that may result in a fire hazard if you seal them; be sure to consult a professional who has knowledge of chimneys.

Finally the one way doors should be left in place for a minimum of 7-10 days but the majority of the bats should leave the first night. If they are NOT leaving something is wrong with the one way doors.



## Re-inspect and Remediate:

The next step is to re-inspect the situation. You may want to sit outside in the evening watching your house for signs of bats exiting and again in the morning watching for signs of bats trying to gain entry. If you're not seeing any bats exiting and or entering you are probably now bat free. If it is extremely cold outside this may be normal for the bats to not enter or exit.

### If the bats have been determined to be gone:

Now we need to determine the extent of the damage that they have done. Locating the guano for removal may be difficult. Be prepared to investigate your attic and or the roof overhang. If the bat droppings have fallen down the backside of a brick wall they may be too scattered to remove completely without destroying the entire wall. It has been my learning experiences that there are two schools of thought. One method of remediation is to remove the guano completely and the other being to entomb it and or seal the cavity off. Attics are hot and this type of cleanup requires specialized training not only to work in hot environments but to work in unhealthy environments as well. Men typically wear respirators, Tyvek suits and use heap filters to vacuum up the guano! Can you do it? Yes you can but I do not recommend it. I recommend from the start you hire a professional nuisance wildlife control professional to handle this entire process. I hope that you will read this manual to educate yourself and to realize that this is a profession where experience matters.

Look online at <http://www.nwcoa.com> for a list of qualified individuals. I can't guarantee you the best but I can guarantee that those who are members – are possibly the best in your area!

Always get at least 2 quotes on a job and remember you get what you pay for! As a business owner in the New Orleans area I welcome my customers to get a second opinion. I feel it allows them to make a more informed decision. You can always go to <http://www.npwma.com> as well and post your questions there too. You may even find a qualified expert there...

Finally I hope that you will research your subject matter more thoroughly by investigating the following bat links and hire an expert and if not I hope I have provided enough "free" information to guide you in the right direction to becoming BAT FREE SAFELY!

Interesting and related Links:

<http://www.npwma.com>

<http://www.nwcoa.com>

<http://www.wildlifecontrolsupplies.com>

<http://www.batmanagement.com>

<http://icwdm.org/wildlife/bat/batguano.asp>

<http://www.cdc.gov/features/bats/>

<http://nwco.net/044-wildlifediseases/4-3-Histoplasmosis.asp>

Good luck!

Charles Parker, if I have been helpful like me on [facebook here!](#)