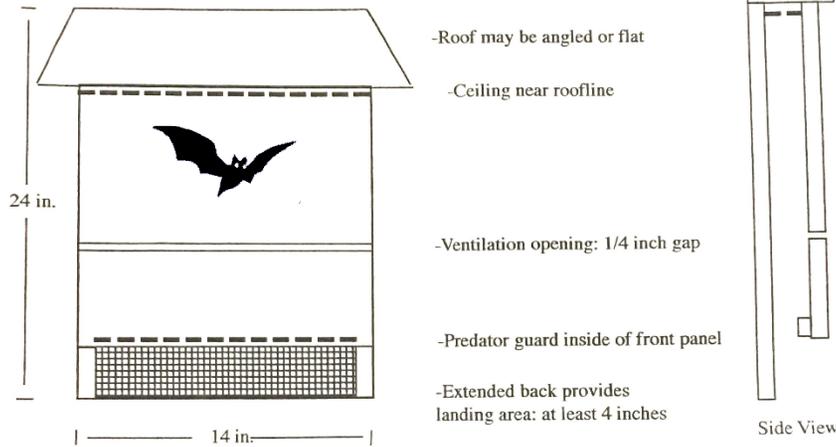
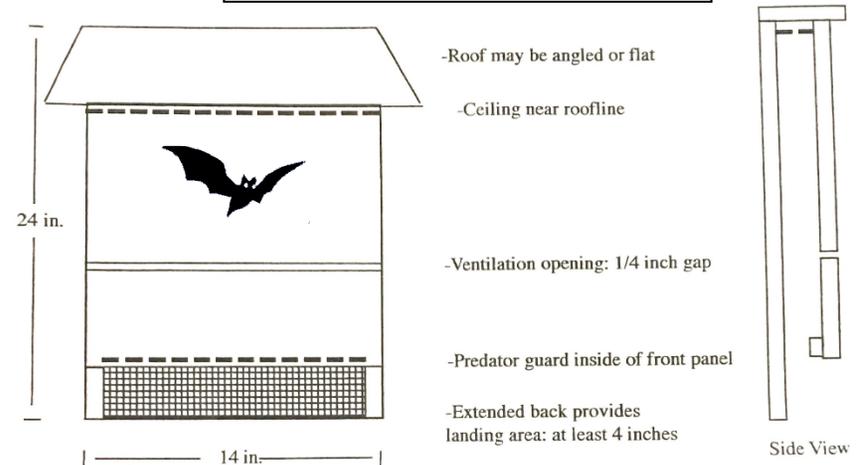


Night Nature Alliance Basic Bat House Plan



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Bat houses should be made of $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1" exterior plywood or cedar. The inside should have grooves at least every $\frac{1}{2}$ " or have $\frac{1}{8}$ " single mold mesh attached with exterior staples all the way up the front and back. The bat house should be at least 24 inches tall, 14 inches wide, and around 3 inches deep. The opening at the bottom should be $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1". Silicone caulk the roof of the house to help keep the bats warm and dry, and use galvanized screws, to prolong the life of the bat house. Add a ceiling at the top of the house just below the roof and leave a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch opening about 6 inches from the bottom opening will allow for temperature variation.

Bat houses should be mounted 15-18 feet above ground on a pole, post, or the side of a building, where they receive direct sunlight. The bat pups are born naked, so the ideal placement is where the house will reach 100 degrees F by noon. They should have a clear flight path going to & from the landing area, free from bushes & shrubs, where predators may hide, or the clumsier young ones might get tangled up. It usually takes about 2 years for bats to occupy a bat house, because they are very loyal to the dead/dying tree where they currently live- but ultimately, that tree will fall over, and your bat house will be the perfect spot for those suddenly homeless bats!

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WHAT TO DO IF A SINGLE BAT IS IN YOUR HOUSE

Don't Panic!

Most of the bats that find their way into our homes are young and confused. Keep pets and children away from the animal and try to isolate it in a room with access to outside. The easiest solution is to turn off inside lights, open an outside door or window, & turn on an outside light. Insects will be attracted to the outside light, and the bat will be attracted to the insects.

If that doesn't work, you can use a butterfly net or a towel & leather gloves to catch the bat and release it outdoors.

Do not touch any wildlife with your bare hands!

If the bat has bitten anyone, they will need to seek medical treatment, including Rabies Post Exposure vaccination. Rabies is confirmed in only 6% of bats that are sent in for testing (bats sent in for testing are ones that have been found in unusual circumstances & are thus more likely to be sick). Rabies is nearly 100% fatal once symptoms appear, but 100% preventable with a vaccine!

WHAT TO DO IF BATS ARE LIVING IN YOUR ATTIC

Bats are not rodents, they do not gnaw. They get in through small existing cracks and holes. If bats are roosting in your attic, you will need to find out where they are gaining entry- the easiest way is to watch them emerge at dusk or return at dawn.

You will need an exclusion device*- this could be either a specifically designed Bat Cone, or it could be a piece of mesh that attaches to your house on three sides. These will allow the bats to fly out, but not back in.

Once you are assured that all the bats have left the building, you can seal the hole.

In Michigan, exclusion should not be done during May through August because bat moms take turns leaving their young with a babysitter mom in the roost. If an exclusion occurs when young are in the roost, the pups will starve as the mothers cannot return to them and they cannot yet fly.

**If you prefer to hire it out, you can call Critter Catchers at (248) 432-2712 for humane bat exclusions.*

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1-833-NNA-WILD



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