



Bat Houses provide roosting space for bats.

### Positioning

They can be put up at any time of the year. Bat boxes should be sited at least 4m above ground, as high as possible on a tree or a wall, as long as it is sheltered from strong winds and exposed to the sun for part of the day (usually south or southwest) and the entrance is accessible. On buildings boxes should be hung as close to the eaves as possible. The approach to the box should not be obstructed by branches.

Do not direct artificial light onto the bat house or flight path. Keep it well away from porches or security lights. Do not hang the bat house above doors or windows where droppings may fall.

Ideally bat houses should be close to unlit linear features such as lines of trees or hedgerows which bats use for orientation. These also provide shelter for insects and food for bats.

### Important:

**Bats and bat roosts are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and it is an offence to disturb, handle or kill a bat.**

Depending on availability of roosting space in the vicinity, bats might start using the bat house within weeks or months, or it might take several years.

### Bat Watching

Once the bat house is in position, leave it alone and enjoy watching the bats as they fly. Droppings on the ground and urine-staining on the grooved ladder will indicate the bat house is used. You may also hear chittering noises from inside the box on warm afternoons and evenings during the summer months.

You can watch the box around sunset to see whether bats are leaving to forage or at dawn to see whether they are returning. You can carefully look up into the box from below – beware of droppings! – but do not shine a light into the box.

### CARE AND CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS:

The bat house is rectangular shaped with grooved “bat ladder” and narrow entrance slit at the bottom through which accumulated bat waste can drop out of the box or be pushed out as bats emerge.

### Important:

**Bat boxes must not be opened by anyone except a licensed bat worker!  
Please contact your local council for details.**