



Product Instructions

WCS™ Multi-Chamber Nursery Bat Houses



**Four Chamber
#BCBH-4C**



**Two Chamber
#BCBH-4C**

WHY INSTALL BAT HOUSES?

Bats have long been disliked by humans, seen as a creature to be feared, and viewed as an ugly flying creatures that seem to be half-bird and half mammal. They are however, being given proper recognition these days in many parts of the world. Bats are valuable to mankind and to the ecological health of the planet. Many plants, bananas and the endangered saguaro cactus for example, are dependent upon bats for pollination, because they bloom at night. Bats are the primary pollinators of the agave plant which is used to produce tequila!

The most immediate appeal of bats to most people is their enormous capacity to consume insects. As a nocturnal animal, bats are out when the insects are out, in contrast to birds that feed during the day. Some bat species consume up to half their weight in insects every night, as many as 600 insects per hour!

One of the most abundant and widespread bat species in North America, the Little Brown Bat, can eat 3,000 to 7,000 insects each night and a bat can live to be 20 years old. Unfortunately, due to the decline in bat populations there has been a global increase in the use of pesticides. The insect control provided by bats to farmers in the U.S. is valued at up to 50 billion dollars annually. Bats are the second most common land mammal, with rodents being the first. They navigate through the darkness by means of a sophisticated echolocation system and can avoid objects in the dark with great accuracy.

WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME (WNS)

WNS is a fungal disease associated with the deaths of at least 5.7 million to 6.7 million North American bats in recent years. WNS has rapidly spread throughout many parts of the country. This disease was discovered in a single cave located in New York in 2006 and continues to spread throughout North America. The mortality rate in some bat caves has been observed at up to 95 percent. To date there are 12 species of bats in North America that have been confirmed with WNS.

The cause of WNS appears to be from a fungus originating from Europe. It was most likely transported by human cave explorers and then spread from bat-to-bat. The occurrence of the same fungus in healthy bats in Europe suggests that they have acquired immunity to the disease and there are signs that some species here in the U.S are beginning to build some resistance. Hopefully, these bats will pass their immunity on to future generations and re-establish healthy bat populations in the affected areas.

BAT HOUSE SHOULD BE LOCATED

- In a sunny location, as required to generate the 80° to 100° + temperatures, needed for a colony of nursing females, though a cooler temperature is acceptable to male bats, which live separately from the females and young.
- At least 10 to 15 feet above the ground
- Bats prefer roosts mounted on buildings or other large structures
- Mounting your bat house on a pole is ok but avoid mounting on trees
- Preferably on the sunny side of a building which will receive at least six hours of daily sun exposure
- With clear unobstructed flight path to and from the house
- Should have a water source within a quarter of a mile
- Sheltered from the wind

If you wish to paint or stain, oil-based products should absolutely be avoided, as they are toxic to bats. Only use water-based paints. See Figure 3 chart on the back for color recommendations based on average summer temperatures in the United States.

Bat populations are declining world-wide at an alarming rate, due to many causes. Female bats typically produce only one offspring every year so repopulation is therefore a slow process. As bats have proven themselves to be a valuable part of our planet's ecology, we must increase awareness of the need to protect these vulnerable creatures. A bat inside of a home or other building is often a juvenile that has lost its way and is looking for a way out. It should not be killed, but gently caught with a towel (wear leather gloves as they often bite when handled) and released outdoors without harm. Bat colonies in attics should be evicted safely, at the proper time of year, and provided with a house of their own.

MOUNTING YOUR BAT HOUSE

If you have purchased the Four Chamber Bat House secure the unit with the two attached hangers. Put nails or screws, as needed, into the location where the house is to be hung. Leave the head(s) extending ½" and hang the metal loop(s) over them. The house can be further secured by inserting a nail or screw through the hole in the landing platform.

If you have purchased the smaller Two Chamber Bat House utilize the two holes located on top. Then drive an additional nail or screw through the pre-drilled hole at the bottom of the lower landing panel.

Sometimes it can take up to two years before bats begin to occupy a new bat house. Fall or winter is a good time to put up a bat house in the hopes of occupants the following spring. If your bat house is not occupied within two years, change its location.

It is not always obvious that a bat house is occupied. Bat droppings are dark pellets about the size of a single grain of rice and are usually the first sign of occupants. Males tend to be solitary or in smaller groups which leave less sign.

Once your bat house is occupied, it can be an inspiring sight to watch them head out after dusk for the night's hunt. Never move a bat house while its being occupied! It is actually illegal to do so in many states.

