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Bats

Summer maternity colonies include a dozen to a few hundred individuals, roosting behind chimneys, in enclosed eaves, in hollow walls, attics, barns, and behind shutters and unused sliding doors. Litter size is 2 in the East to the Great Plains; from the Rockies westward 1 young is born. They often enter homes through open windows or unscreened fireplaces. Wait until dusk when the bat may appear once again as it attempts to find an exit. Use a **Telescoping Hand Net**. Since big brown bats may hibernate in the cooler recesses of heated buildings, they may suddenly appear (flying indoors or outdoors) in midwinter during a warm spell or a cold snap as they move about to adjust to the temperature shift.

Detection

Surface areas on walls, under loose woodwork, between bricks and around other bat entryways often have a smooth, polished appearance. The stained area is slightly sticky, may contain a few bat hairs, and is yellow-brown to blackish brown in color. The smooth gloss of these rub marks is due to oils from fur and other bodily secretions mixed with dust, deposited there as many animals pass repeatedly for a long period over the same surface. Openings marked in this way have been used heavily by bats. Accumulations also result in the staining of ceilings, soffits, and siding, producing unsightly and unsanitary conditions.

Bat excrement produces an unpleasant odor as it decomposes in attics, wall spaces, and other voids. The pungent, musty, acrid odor can often be detected from outside a building containing a large or long-term colony. Similar odor problems occur when animals die in inaccessible locations. The odor also attracts arthropods which may later invade other areas of a building.

Process

An evening watch begins about 30 minutes before dark and a morning watch begins about 1 hour before dawn. Observations should continue for approximately 1 hour. Such observations can indicate exit/ entry points and the number of bats.

All interventions should be initiated before the young are born or after they are weaned and able to fly. From about mid-August to mid-May for much of North America.

Bats roost in the most varied kinds of buildings and in every part from cellar to attic. Some types of buildings appear preferable (older houses, churches, barns, proximity to water) as do certain roost locations with little disturbance, low illumination, little air circulation, and high temperatures.

Exclusion

The traditional way to exclude bats from an occupied roost involves five basic steps:

- (1) identify and close all indoor openings through which bats might gain access to human living quarters; **use Todol Foam and Copper Mesh or B3X/Dv8 strips** for shutters
- (2) close most confirmed and all unused potential exterior exits, leaving only a few major openings (it's best to complete this within 1 to 2 days);
- (3) at night shortly after the bats have departed to feed, temporarily close the few remaining, major exits;

- (4) check the roost for presence of bats and, if any remain, unplug the temporarily closed exits early the next evening to allow the bats to escape, then temporarily replug the exits (it may be necessary to repeat this step more than once); and
- (5) when the bats are all out, permanently seal the holes

Equipment

Bat Netting- durable black polypropylene resin, Quality of product is important since the netting should not fray or become misshapen under hot summer conditions. Use only structural grade material that has openings no larger than 1/2 x 1/2 inch and is flexible yet stiff enough to maintain the shape. **Hercules Putty (WCSHP01)**, waterproof duct tape, common staples, and/or wooden lath strips are used to attach the netting to metal, slate, brick, wood, asphalt shingle, or other surfaces. Note that duct tape may stain or discolor painted/enameled surfaces if kept in contact for long periods of time. The basic design is to attach the netting around an exit hole except at the bottom where the bats will escape.

Note on Hercules Putty- in higher heats it is more difficult to scrape off. It will also lift off grit and grime possibly leaving a clean line on buildings. Non permanent-great for surfaces you cannot nail or screw.

Bat Excluder/ ProCones, are designed to be used on the last few exit points. Cones should be kept in place for 3 to 5 days.

Ultrasonic devices to repel little brown and big brown bats either in the roost or as they fly toward an entrance hole have **no documented evidence that it works that we've seen**

Artificial Roosts. (Bat Houses) For more than 60 years, artificial bat roosts have been used in Europe. The Missouri Department of Conservation described a successful "bat refuge" that was quickly occupied by a displaced colony of little brown bats

Clean Up (Same for birds) Contact local physician for disease potential

- Wet with **Nisus** bactericide to make it easier to shovel. Follow instructions: wait 30 mins-24 hrs for disinfectant to take some effect. Shovel. See state requirements on disposal of waste.
- Vacuum /Scrub with detergent
- Spray Odor Neutralizer (**E-poleon, Citrus Neutrox, or Freshwave**)

Wear safety and protective gear Face Respirators, gloves, Tyvek suits