

BATS IN YOUR HOUSE?

THIS INFORMATION WILL HELP

WHY ARE BATS IMPORTANT?

Happily hunting insects at dusk when we are settling in for the evening, bats are among the most misunderstood animals in the world. They are warm-blooded mammals, just like us. Female bats usually have only one pup per year and they will faithfully raise the newborn to maturity. They quietly provide an invaluable service by feasting upon millions of insects each night. Vital to the ecosystem that includes our own backyards, we — humans — present the biggest health threat to our night-time guardians. Large portions of prime bat habitat is destroyed each year, forcing them to relocate into places that we have built for ourselves.



Organization for
Bat Conservation



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CATCHERS INC.



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DO BATS HAVE RABIES?

Bats can contract rabies, just like a raccoon, a skunk, a dog — or even you! Rabies is a dangerous disease, and you should seek professional medical assistance any time you've been bitten by a wild animal. However, your chance of suffering a rabid bat bite is less than your risk of being struck by a bolt of lightning. Bats infected with rabies suffer the symptoms of the disease, and eventually die from it. Past research indicates that the actual incidence of rabies in bat populations is less than 0.5% in most areas.

BAT FLYING INSIDE YOUR HOME?

If a colony of bats is living in your home, an occasional bat may accidentally invade your living quarters. Trust us, they greatly prefer the great outdoors. When a bat breaches your home defenses, first determine if anyone in the home may have been bitten. Consider that some may not be able to respond, like small children. If you suspect a bite, contact your local health department immediately. Attempts should then be made to capture the bat, for proper testing. Wear heavy leather gloves and place a coffee can over the bat. Then slide a piece of cardboard under the can to enclose the bat inside. If you're certain that a bite has not occurred, stay calm and attempt to steer the animal outside. A bat is not trying to attack; it's only attempting to find a way outside. Turn on some lights in the house, so you can better track the visitor. Restrict the bat's access to one area of the home, by closing doors to other rooms. Open an exterior window or door. Hold a broom upright, and guide the bat toward the exit. Resist your urge to swat at your trespasser, as the bat is using its echolocation to navigate a safe path outside.

HOW DO I GET BATS OUT OF MY ATTIC?

Bats generate a natural fear among humans. They're mysterious creatures that can be unnerving when they are in your home. An experienced bat exclusion professional can quickly determine where bats are entering your home and formulate a humane strategy for their removal. The goal is to provide a one-way exit for the bats, which may require working high above the ground on a two-story ladder, or navigating steeply pitched rooflines. One-way doors are vital to avoid completely sealing the home and trapping bats inside. Trapped bats are desperate bats, and they'll seek alternative routes outside, possibly landing them right in your living room. Successful bat exclusion requires the skills of a properly trained professional to ensure that they don't get back inside through a different location. If you live in Southeast Michigan, contact Critter Catchers today. All employees receive annual training from the Organization for Bat Conservation.

Critter Catchers, Inc.

Critter Catchers is a local animal control company that solves wildlife problems in Southeast Michigan. The company has partnered with the Organization for Bat Conservation to provide humane bat exclusions. If you need assistance in removing bats from unwanted places, the company can be contacted at 248-432-2712.



www.crittercatchersinc.com
248-432-2712

Organization for Bat Conservation

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Bat Conservation

The Organization for Bat Conservation is a non-profit organization seeking to preserve bats and their habitats through education, collaboration, and research. The organization works closely with local health departments and government agencies to aid in public health issues associated with bats. OBC can be reached at www.batconservation.org or 248-645-3232.