

DOCUMENT TITLE: BATS IN BUILDINGS: A GUIDE TO SAFE AND HUMANE EXCLUSIONS.

Document Reference: Bat Conservation International. 2011. Bats in Buildings: A Guide to Safe & Humane Exclusions. Austin, Texas, USA. 7pp.

Available online at:

<http://www.batcon.org/pdfs/education/fofug.pdf>

Ce document sera disponible en Français et en Anglais sous peu. Veuillez appeler Pamela Wesley au 705 755-5217 si vous avez des questions.

Summary of Document

The document provides instructions on how to safely and humanely capture and release a stray bat from your living space and how to humanely exclude bats from an area in your home where they are roosting.

Purpose

This document provides details on what you can do when you find a bat in your living space or if you find bats roosting in other areas of your home (e.g. your attic). The document can be used as a do-it-yourself guide to humane bat removal and exclusion in co-ordination with Table 1 below. The Ministry of Natural Resources does not encourage handling of bats due to the risks it can pose to humans and to the bat. Persons who choose to handle a bat do so at their own risk. The document does not address species-specific techniques and does not supersede any species-specific guidance that may exist or become available.

Adaptations, Recommendations and Comments

The document makes reference to capturing a living bat and then releasing it outside for the purposes of removing it from areas that are regularly occupied by people or pets (e.g. not an attic). Before capturing a bat, the Ministry of Natural Resources encourages persons to open their doors and windows and give the bat a reasonable amount of time to escape outside on its own. The Ministry of Natural Resources does not endorse handling of bats due to the risks it can pose to humans and to the bat. Persons who choose to handle a bat do so at their own risk.

The table below identifies the best times of year to undertake various exclusion activities in Ontario based on timing windows suitable to bats in Ontario.

Table 1.

Timing Window	Exclusion Activity
April until early-May Bats may be present but no pups (baby bats) yet	Installing one-way doors in identified openings to evict or exclude bats from the building will let bats exit the building but not re-enter.
mid-May until mid-August Bats and flightless pups present	Immobile pups may be present so any action to evict bats or prevent access (e.g. through the use one way doors or sealing entrances) could present a risk to the pups. Flightless pups will die if they are separated from their mothers. This is a good time to watch the bats exit at dusk to identify openings for exclusion activities at a later date once pups are able to fly.
late-August until November Some bats may remain	Some bats may remain in an attic or basement. Installing one-way doors in identified openings to evict or exclude bats from the building will let bats exit the building but not re-enter.
December until the end of March Some overwintering bats (e.g. big brown bat) might still be present	This is a good time to seal entrances completely (e.g. not through the use of one-way doors, to complete bat proofing before bats arrive back in the spring. However, it is not humane to seal entrances completely until you are sure that all bats have left to hibernate elsewhere and no bats remain. Furthermore, taking action to evict or exclude any remaining bats during winter months would likely result in their death as they are highly vulnerable to the cold.

Approvals

If you are considering an activity that may impact a species at risk, permissions, approvals or authorizations may be required from MNR (e.g. Endangered Species Act authorization, Wildlife Scientific Collector's Authorization) or other agencies, levels of government (e.g. a conservation authority, municipality, federal or provincial government), or landowners. It is your responsibility to ensure that all necessary permissions, approvals and authorizations are acquired prior to proceeding with your activity.

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For additional information, please contact MNR at: esa.permits.agreements@ontario.ca