



USA
 Woodinville, Washington 98072
 Website: crownbees.com
 Email: info@crownbees.com

Canada
 Black Creek, BC v9j 1j1
 Website: crownbees.com
 Email: info@crownbees.com

Sign Up for Free BeeMail!
 Get tips from experts
 on when to do what.
 crownbees.com

BAT HABITAT INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS & TIPS

PREPARATION OF YOUR BAT HABITAT

A proper roosting temperature may be the single most important factor for a successful bat habitat. It is no secret that bats prefer warm temperatures. Interior bat habitat temperatures should be as warm and stable as possible with ideal daytime summer temperatures between 80 and 100 degrees to encourage and allow mother bats to rear their young. For cooler climate areas, mounting of the bat habitat to the side of a building rather than atop a post or pole is preferred.

Bat habitat temperatures can be influenced by compass orientation, the amount of sun exposure each day and exposure to elements such as wind and rain. Your Crown Bees Bat Habitat has been constructed from high grade Northwest cedar which weathers well and retains heat. Joints have been caulked to reduce drafts inside the habitat.

Additionally, the color of your bat habitat can also affect the temperature within. The exterior paint or stain color can affect the amount of light that is absorbed and can influence the internal temperature of the habitat. The following colors are recommended based on average daily high temperatures for the month of July.

Average Daily Temperature	Recommended Habitat Color
Less than 85° F	Black or Dark Shade of Paint/Stain
85° - 95° F	Dark or Medium Shade of Paint/Stain
95° - 100° F	Medium or Light Shade of Paint/Stain
100° F or Greater	White or Light Shade of Paint/Stain

PLACEMENT OF YOUR BAT HABITAT

Bat habitats can be mounted on posts, poles or building side. It is not recommended that they be mounted on trees. Mounting a bat habitat in a tree limits the amount of sunlight to warm the bat habitat, makes bats more vulnerable to predators and makes it difficult for them to drop from the habitat and take flight. Consider mounting your bat habitat under a building eave where the bat habitat will benefit from protection of wind, rain and predators. Bats need warmth so a southern or eastern exposure that receives 6-8 hours of direct sunlight is preferred. Bat habitats should not be lit by bright lights, so avoid locating habitat near a porch or security light.

If possible, locate bat habitat 20-30 feet from tree branches or other obstacles and at least 10 feet above ground (12-20 feet above ground is optimal). If mounting bat habitat to a post or pole, be sure to use a Schedule-40 galvanized steel pole with an inside diameter of 2" or greater OR a 4"x6" treated wooden post. A metal predator guard may prove beneficial when mounting the bat habitat to a wooden post.

Bats require water to survive. Locations near to a large water source (stream, river, pond, lake) are best as these areas tend to be natural bat flyways. Similarly, locating a bat habitat adjacent to areas containing diverse or natural locations are best as bats seek protection and food. *Note: it is not recommended that bat habitats be placed directly over water or containers that may trap water as baby bats that fall from the habitat may become trapped or drown.*

Bats are curious creatures and will investigate roosting opportunities (cracks/crevices, nooks and crannies) during nighttime foraging excursions that will protect them from the elements and predators. According to Bat Conservation International (www.batcon.org), bat habitats mounted on buildings or poles are easier for bats to locate have higher occupancy rates and are occupied 2.5 times quicker than those mounted in trees. Additionally, bats have very strong homing instincts so relocating bats to a bat habitat will likely result in bats leaving and returning to their original home. Installation of your bat habitat can occur at any time of year, but the habitat is more likely to be inhabited the first summer following installation if installed before migrating bats return in spring. If bats are known to have taken up habitat in a building and actions will be taken to evict them or prohibit re-entrance, it is advisable to install the bat habitat 2-6 weeks prior to this action.

While your Crown Bees bat habitat has an open bottom that will keep guano ("bat poop") from accumulating inside the bat habitat, keep in mind that droppings will accumulate on the ground beneath the habitat, so exercise caution in locating your bat habitat above a door, walkway, patio, etc. If mounting bat habitat to the side of a building, consider adding a small block of wood between the building wall and the bat habitat to reduce guano deposits on the building wall. Please also note that bat urine may stain some finishes.

MAINTENANCE OF YOUR BAT HABITAT

Bat habitats must be maintained to encourage bats to return year after year. Most bats, like many birds, will migrate south to warmer climates for winter. Bat habitat should be examined to determine if new caulk or stain may be required to guard against leaks and drafts. Any necessary bat habitat inspections, repairs or cleaning should be performed when bats are not present.

You may find that wasps and mud daubers may seek shelter within the bat habitat and build their nests inside. Any such nests should be cleaned out each winter after bats and wasps have departed or in early spring before bats, wasps or mud daubers return.

If you find that your bat habitat remains unoccupied after 2 full years, consider relocating the habitat.