

Bat Management



Little Brown Bat

Myotis lucifugus



Biology



- Nocturnal
- Approximately 8-9cm long and weighs 3-14 grams depending on age and time of year
- Bats have a very low reproductive rate
- May live for 30+ years
- Pale tan to reddish brown to dark brown in color
- Females mate in the fall and have their pups in the early summer



Biology

- Usually only one pup per season is born
- Pups are weaned in 3-4 weeks
 - able to fly shortly after weaning
 - become sexually mature the following season
- Little Brown Bat may hibernate or migrate, depending on conditions
- Little Brown Bat is believed to be the longest living “small” mammal on earth

Behavior

- Little Brown Bat lives in colonies
 - anywhere from a few to one hundred





Behavior

- Bats “roost” in areas accessible to them.
They do not make nests
- Prefer to live near forests or clumps of trees
 - the more their habitat is disrupted the greater probability they will roost in walls and attics of buildings
- Leave the roost at dusk and early dawn to feed and drink

Misconceptions

- Bats do not carry rabies
- Bats have the ability to transmit rabies but no more than any other mammal
 - less than 0.5%
- Bats will not fly in your hair
- Bats are not blind
- Bats will not suck your blood





Health Aspects Associated With Bats

- Rabies
 - can only be contracted through the bite of a rabid animal
 - only two cases of rabies transmission by means other than bites have ever been documented
 - Frio Cave, Texas 1951 and 1955
 - individuals were exploring caves





Health Aspects Associated With Bats

- Histoplasmosis
 - fungal disease effecting the lungs
 - usually associated with bird/bat droppings
 - 90% of all histoplasmosis cases in US occur in Ohio/Mississippi River Valley area (ref. CDC)
 - greatest threat is to persons cleaning up droppings
 - generally disease is asymptomatic
 - only one documented fatality (ref. CDC)

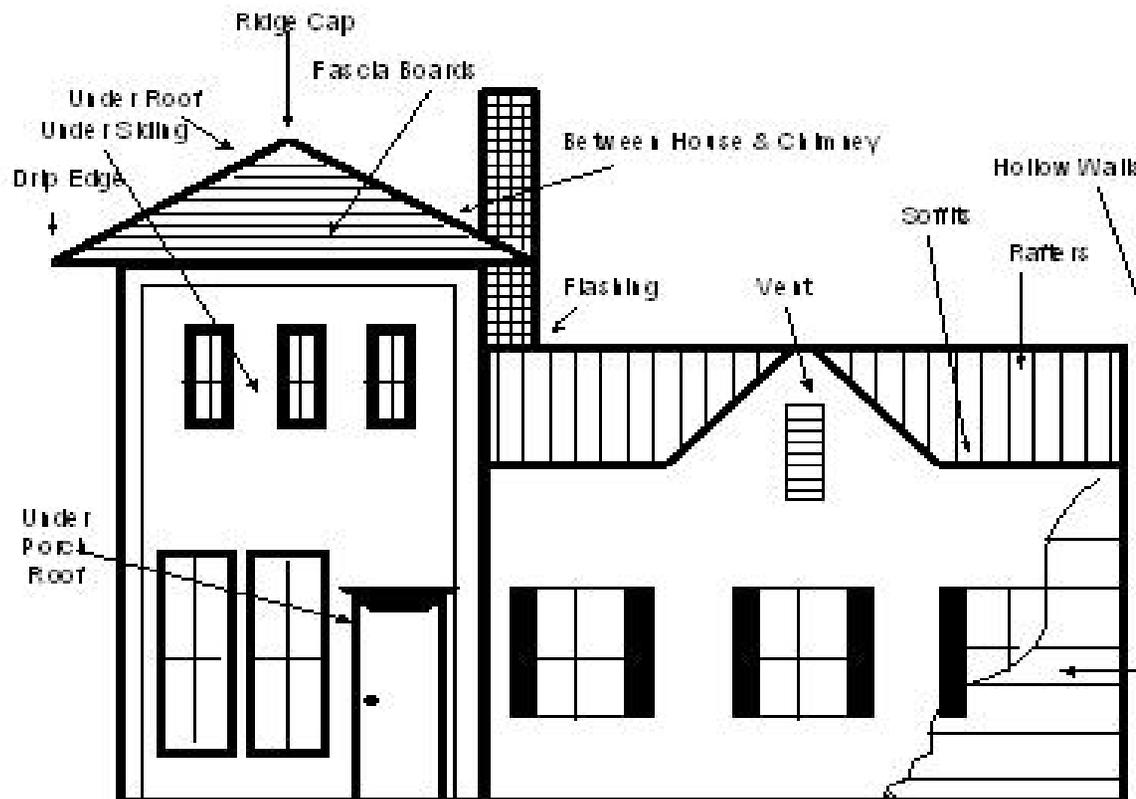


Health Aspects

- Ectoparasites
 - species specific
 - usually only become a problem in large established colonies
 - ticks, mites and batbugs (similar to bedbugs)
 - have never been implemented in the spread of disease

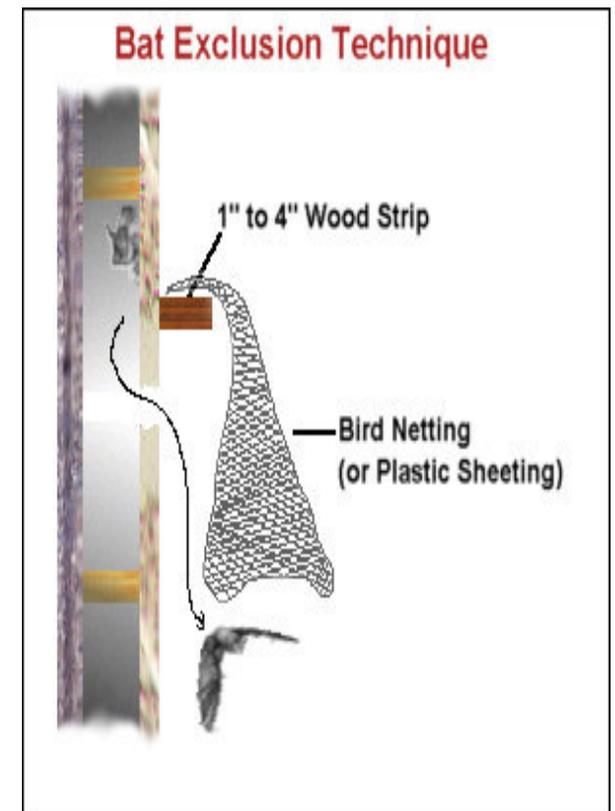


Excluding Bats



Excluding Bats

- Exclusion is the only acceptable method of bat management
- Exclusion allows bats to exit the building but not return
- It is illegal to kill bats
- It is illegal to use pesticides against bats





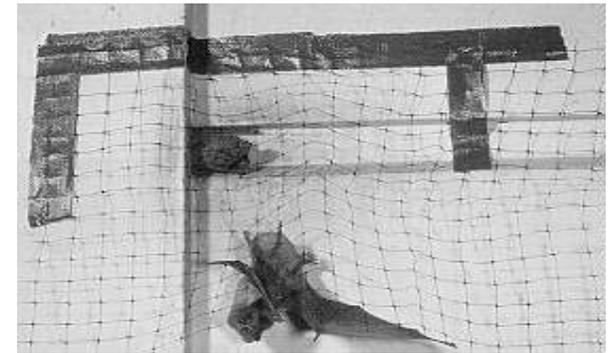
Excluding Bats

- Exclusion operations cannot take place May through August
 - part of MD DNR public agency wildlife control permit process
 - this is the maternity season
 - females are nursing and feeding young
 - excluding during this period will result in the death of all the pups



Exclusion Techniques

- Identify roosting sites
- Identify exit areas
 - monitor for a few evenings
- Seal up all openings except exit areas
- Place exclusion device on exit areas
 - monitor for first few evenings
 - leave device on for 10 to 14 days
 - seal up all openings





Exclusion Follow Up

- Clean up associated droppings may be required
- Clean up will be IAW CDC NIOSH pub 97-146 *Histoplasmosis: Protecting Workers at Risk*
- Office workers not identified as “workers at risk”
 - virtually no risk of exposure since droppings are encapsulated within ceiling area (ref. CDC-NIOSH)

Bat Conservation



- Why conserve bats?
 - Voracious predators of insects
 - able to consume 2,000 to 3,000 mosquitoes per evening
 - their benefits by far outweigh any risks associated with them

Myth Versus Fact

- Myth: Bats are dangerous disease carriers
- Fact: There were more deaths associated with mosquitoes in New York City last year than have been associated with bats in the entire United States in the last 30 years
- Myth: Bats are aggressive animals and will readily attack
- Fact: Bats are gentle creatures and like all small mammals non-aggressive





Myth Versus Fact

- Myth: There are far too many bats in the US
- Fact: More than 50% of US bat species are in severe decline or already listed as endangered
- Myth: Bats reproduce at alarming rates
- Fact: They are among the slowest reproducing mammals on earth and are exceptionally vulnerable to extinction.

Myth Versus Fact

- Myth: Bats serve no useful purpose
- Fact: Loss of bats increases the demand for pesticides, can jeopardize whole ecosystems, and can harm human economies





Questions?

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