

Bats are a very misunderstood and have a false reputation of being filthy and diseased. Myths include:

All bats have rabies—Myth. One half of one percent of bats carry the rabies virus. Unlike other animals (e.g. dogs and cats), when a bat is infected with rabies it usually does not become aggressive. Often times it will grow weak and die fairly quickly. The rapid death of an infected bat greatly limits the spread among other bats. According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, only 40 people have contracted rabies from bats within the last 40 years.

White Nose Syndrome is contagious— Myth. WNS is an infectious disease for bats. You, your family, and your pets are not able to contract the disease.

Owning a bat house will encourage bats to live in your attic, shed, or other human space—Myth.

Bats choose to roost wherever they feel is the safest and the most comfortable for them. Since bat houses are designed to provide ideal conditions, it is unlikely they would choose your attic over a bat house.

Bats drink blood and feed on humans and pets— Myth. Of the 900+ bat species in the world, only 3 feed on blood. They live in South America.

Bats are attracted to hair - Myth. Bats are not attracted to hair. Bats actually try to avoid humans as much as possible. If a bat gets close to a human, it is usually because there are swarms of insects surrounding them. The threat of a bat diving into your hair is extremely minimal. This is because bats use echolocation which is so extraordinary it can actually detect objects as fine as a human hair!



BAT HOUSE IMPORTANCE

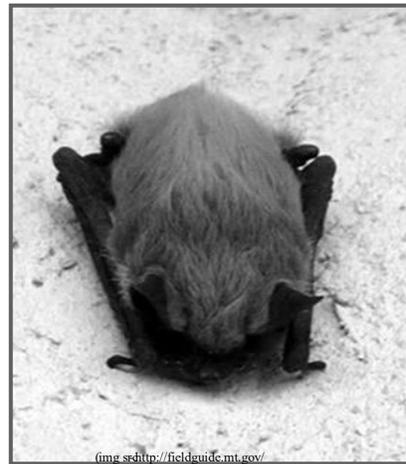


**WHY HAVING A
BAT HOUSE WILL
HELP YOU AND
THE
ENVIRONMENT**

IMPORTANCE OF BATS

Bats are an essential part of our ecosystem. Their contributions include:

- **Pest control**— Bats play a critical role in regulating insect populations. A single bat will eat more than a thousand mosquitoes and crop damaging insects every night.
- **Fertilization**—Bat guano (feces) is nutrient rich and functions as an excellent fertilizer for plants.
- **Scientific Research**—Research conducted on bats has enabled advancements in sonar, vaccine development, blood coagulation, artificial insemination, and more.
- **Virus Control**—Bats eat thousands of disease causing insects, such as mosquitoes, every night.
- **Biodiversity**—Cave-roosting bats are a keystone species, because bat guano provides vital nutrients for cave ecosystems, and is often the basis of a cave's food chain. Bat guano is used by microorganisms and invertebrates, which become food for fish, salamanders, frogs, and other larger animals.



BATS NEED YOUR HELP

Roughly 40% of U.S. bat species are either in severe decline or have already been listed as endangered. Causes Include:

- **Habitat Loss and Degradation**—Forests and caves are often disturbed or converted for urban and agricultural uses.
- **Agricultural Chemicals**—Bats may eat insects and drink water contaminated with pesticides, or absorb chemicals when feeding in treated areas.
- **White Nose Syndrome**—Discovered in 2006, WNS is decimating bats populations in North America, with mortality rates reaching up to 100 percent at many sites. It is estimated that roughly 5.5 million bats have died thus far from WNS .

HOW BAT HOUSES HELP BATS

- **Habitat Loss and Degradation**—Gives bats more housing options that are lacking
- **Agricultural Chemicals**—Bat houses allow for a greater bat presence which means fewer harmful pesticides that negatively impact bats
- **White Nose Syndrome**—More housing will allow bats to stay out of contaminated areas

HOW BAT HOUSES HELP YOU

- Natural pest control making the Summer months more enjoyable
- Natural fertilization for your garden, lawn or farm
- Reduces the spread of viruses caused by insects keeping you and your family safe
- Promotes biodiversity and sustainability for a healthier planet

