

## **What to do if a single bat is in the house**

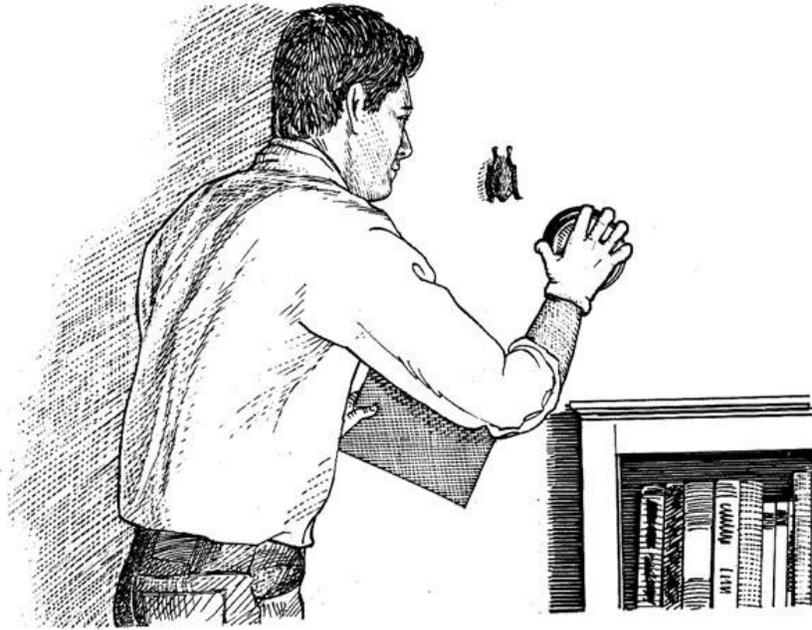
*<http://extension.psu.edu/natural-resources/wildlife/wildlife-nuisance-and-damage/bats/a-homeowners-guide-to-northeastern-bats-and-bat-problems>*

Individual bats occasionally enter houses, most often during summer evenings in mid-July and August. These wayward bats are usually pups that are just beginning to fly. Fortunately, these incidents can be dealt with quite easily. A bat flying in the house will usually circle a room several times in search of an exit. The best method for getting a bat out of the house is to allow it to find its own way out. Chasing or swatting at the bat will cause it to panic and fly erratically, which only prolongs the incident.

If you do encounter a bat flying in a room, follow this procedure:

1. Shut all doors leading into other rooms to confine the bat to as small an area as possible.
2. Open all windows and doors leading outside to give the bat a chance to escape. (Don't worry about other bats flying in from the outside.)
3. Remove pets from the room, leave the lights on, stand quietly against a wall or door, and watch the bat until it leaves.
4. Do not try to herd the bat toward a window. Just allow it to calmly get its bearings, and don't worry about it swooping at you. When indoors, a bat makes steep, banking turns, so it flies upwards as it approaches a wall and swoops lower near the center of the room.
5. Within ten to fifteen minutes the bat should settle down, locate the open door or window, and fly out of the room.

If the bat tires and comes to rest on a curtain or wall, you can easily remove it without directly touching it. (See diagram.) Follow the steps below.



You can easily remove a bat from a room without directly touching it.

1. Put on a pair of leather gardening or work gloves.
2. Place a container, such as a large plastic bowl, over the bat as it rests on the wall. At this point, the bat is probably exhausted and disoriented, and will not fly as you approach it. (If it does take flight, follow the procedure for flying bats.)
3. Slide a piece of rigid cardboard between the container and the wall to trap the bat. Hold the cardboard firmly against the container and carry the container outside.
4. Place the container (facing away from you) on a secure place above the ground—such as on a ledge, or against a tree—and slide away the cardboard. The bat will not fly right away, so releasing it above the ground keeps it safe from predators until it has its bearings. And unlike birds, most bats must drop from a perch and catch air before flying.

If you have recurring problems with bats entering your home, you may want to inspect your attic to determine if you are housing a bat maternity colony.

Visit: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/publications/homeowners-guide-to-bats-5th-edition.pdf>

If you find a bat in your house in winter –

call BiodiversityWorks 800-690-0993

