



# got bats?



## BAT HOUSE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Because they eat so many insects, bats are some of the most beneficial animals for humans, worth approximately \$23 billion a year to the U.S. agricultural industry (think of what they can do in your backyard!). And bats are in severe decline due to White Nose Syndrome and other major threats.

Bat conservation is important, but bats roosting inside your house may pose a potential conflict. Bat evictions can be done by homeowners or by professional bat excluders between April 1 – April 30 and August 1 – October 15 (or through March 31st if no bats are hibernating in the building). But evicting bats can have negative impacts...

### Did You Know?

Bats evicted from homes in April may not survive if nightly temperatures are too low and insect food items are scarce. Bats evicted in late summer may not gain enough weight to survive the winter.

Evicted bats will return every year and try to (often successfully) re-enter the roost. In many cases, evicted bats will move to a neighboring house.

### We Can Resolve This Conflict!

The Rutgers Wildlife Conservation and Management Program can install a bat house on your property to provide immediate refuge to evicted bats to offer alternative roosting site for the long term.

### How To Enroll in the Program

Participating is easy! Follow these simple steps:

1. Fill out our Got Bats? online reporting form at [wildlife.rutgers.edu](http://wildlife.rutgers.edu).
2. Pledge to evict the bats humanely, either by performing the exclusion yourself and following the state's guidelines or hiring a bat excluder who does.
3. We will install a bat house on your property at least 2 weeks prior to the bat exclusion.
4. Monitor the bat house each year and let us know if it's being used.

That's it! We can provide technical assistance and guidance throughout the process. Contact [wildlife@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:wildlife@njaes.rutgers.edu) for more information.

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