

THE NESTBOX COMPANY LTD

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Nesting boxes thoughtfully designed for their inhabitants!

BAT BOXES

Siting and Management of Bat Boxes

Bats are protected species in the U.K. and one of the reasons for this is the loss of roost sites. You can help maintain habitat for these fascinating species by providing them with alternative roosting sites in the form of boxes.

Bats are very sensitive to smells and chemicals so your Nest Box Company bat box has no preservatives whatsoever.

Siting

Good sites for bat boxes are near to where you know they are already or where you have seen bats flying and feeding. They like areas close to rivers, ponds, lakes and also open spaces surrounded by trees and hedges. Isolated trees in open spaces are also good sites. These are often found in open parkland.

It is not essential, however, to fasten boxes onto trees. Garden walls, etc. are also satisfactory sites.

When you have selected your site, try to position your bat box fairly high up and out of reach of cats and other predators. Attach it to the tree or wall etc with nails/screws/string or similar.

Bats tend to select different roosting sites at different times of the year and in different weather conditions so it is best to position 2 or 3 bat boxes facing in different directions.

Make sure that there is clear access to the bat box for the bats. They like to have a good flightpath to the box without branches, clothes lines, etc. in their way.

Management

The size of the slot at the bottom of your batbox is 17 - 18mm so you should not get any trespassers in the form of tree-creepers or tits taking up residence.

However bats leave very little trace of using a box so don't worry that it appears unoccupied. The best way to discover if it is being used is to look for bat droppings below the box or to be very patient and keep watch! Dusk is the time to observe what is happening.

Once you have put up the box, don't disturb it. It shouldn't need cleaning out unless something very strange gets inside it!

Get in touch with your local Bat Group - they will be able to help with advice and will probably be interested to hear what you are doing as well.



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