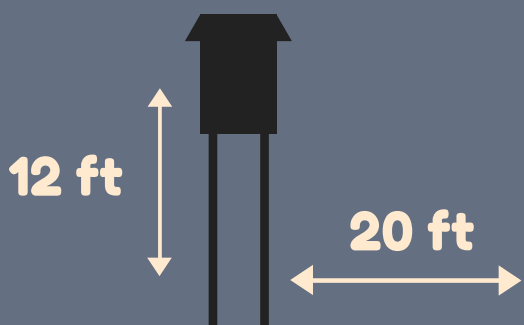# Bat Box Installation & Care Tips

Paint the box a dark color or shade of exterior-grade, water-based paint or stain to increase the temperature.

If you are excluding bats from a house or other structure, avoid doing so during the summer and install your bat house **2-6 weeks before eviction.**

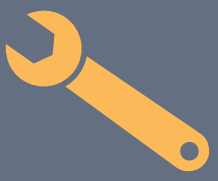**2 - 6 weeks**

12 ft

20 ft

Install at least 12 ft above the ground and at least 20 ft from trees and other obstacles.

Install on buildings or sturdy poles, but **not trees**. Boxes on trees receive less light, can obstruct flight paths of bats, and make them more vulnerable to predators.

6

Install in a location that receives at least 6 hours of direct sunlight and is protected from strong winds and weather.

Did you know?

The work doesn't end once you put up your bat box.

Regular maintenance like re-caulking, removing unwanted guests (wasps love bat houses!), and checking for holes is important to keeping your bats healthy and happy!

Why aren't bats using your bat house?

The first year of installation is like an experiment – we still don't fully understand all the roosting needs of bats.

If your bat box isn't being used after one or two summers, try some of these suggestions:

- change location
- change paint color
- place near water, or place water near your bat box

Don't get discouraged! It can take time for bats to learn where the boxes are and to decide if the box meets their needs.

Are bats using your bat box?

Report colonies here: **wdfw.wa.gov/bats**

Scan a QR code below with your smartphone's camera for more information

Bat Box Tips

Bat Box FAQs