



Recommendations for Bat-Proofing Camp Buildings and Keeping Campers Safe

1. **Are there bats in a camp building?** Prior to the opening of camp and before staff and campers enter any camp building inspect each structure to ensure that bats and droppings (guano) are not present. Bats may roost in attics, soffits, louvers, chimneys and porches, under siding, eaves, roof tiles or shingles, and behind shutters. In stadiums and garages, bats may roost in expansion joints between concrete beams. Examine the following areas closely:
 - a. Attic - examine both sides of each rafter and ceiling joist
 - b. Crawl space - examine both sides of each floor joist and entire foundation
 - c. Exterior fascia - examine for points of entry.
2. **Camp Management should regularly inspect campers' sleeping quarters and other buildings** for bats and other animals.
3. **What are the points of bat entry?** Observing the buildings at dusk when bats leave the roost to forage for insects may help identify bat access points. Bats can enter or leave buildings through openings as small as one-half inch (1/2") in diameter. Common bat entry points include:
 - a. Open windows and doors
 - b. Missing, broken, torn or poorly fitting screens
 - c. Loose door and window seals and frames
 - d. Open soffit and ridgeline vents
 - e. Missing roof shingles or tiles
 - f. Sewer line vents that penetrate the roof
 - g. Loose flashing or boards
 - h. Areas where pipes or wiring enter the building
 - i. Crawl space vents
 - j. Chimneys and chimney caps
4. **Repair or modify camp buildings** to keep bats and other animals out. Make sure all small openings are identified and sealed or constructed to prevent entry of bats. Materials that can be used to eliminate points of entry include caulk, spray-in foam (ex Dow Great Stuff®) wire mesh or screen and steel wool.
5. **What steps should be taken if there are bats in a building?** If you suspect there are bats in a building or bats have been identified in the structure DO NOT allow occupancy of buildings until they are animal proof, and free of bats or other unwanted animals.
 - a. Safely remove people from the building.
 - b. Identify persons who may have been in the building during the time the bat(s) was present.
 - c. Report the incident to the local health department communicable disease nurse in the event risk assessments or animal rabies testing is needed.
 - d. Contact a **Wildlife Damage Control Agent** to safely exclude bats from the structure:
<http://www.ncwildlife.org/Trapping/Wildlife-Damage-Control-Agent>
6. **Camp management should keep the following contact information readily available:**
 - a. 24-hour contact number for local health department.
 - b. 24-hour contact number for local animal control agency.
 - c. Contact number for Wildlife Damage Control Agent.
 - d. Contact number for state health department
7. **Instruct campers to:**
 - a. Keep screens on all windows.
 - b. Keep doors closed.
 - c. Report any bat or animal sightings (in cabin, camp buildings or grounds) immediately to camp staff.