

Building Bat Houses

The students will gain an appreciation for bats through their research and hands-on activities.

Age Appropriateness:

9-12, 13+

Key Topics:

Bat Conservation

Environmental
Awareness

Skills:

Environmental
Education

Critical Thinking

Researching

Woodworking

Materials:

Bat House Kit or
Instructions, along
with their suggested
materials

Time Considerations:

1 hour for Research

2-4 hours for
Construction

Resources

Info On Bats - [http://
www.batconservation.
org/index.html](http://www.batconservation.org/index.html)

Bat House Plans
(Sample on page 2)
[http://
free.woodworking-
plans.org/bat-house-
plans.html](http://free.woodworking-plans.org/bat-house-plans.html)

OBJECTIVES

- The youth will learn about the importance of bats to our ecosystem.
- They will help with the construction and placement of bat houses.



Preparation

- Research bats, and their importance to our environment. You can use [this link](#) to find a lot of useful information about bats.
- Create a quiz or other fun activity to test existing knowledge.
- Order the materials and/or kits for your bat houses - [click here](#) for a long list of free bat house plans.

Action

- Break the youth into different teams based on the number of bat houses you will be building. Make sure they have the appropriate materials and supervision to complete the construction of each bat house.
- Help the youth construct their Bat Houses.
- Decide where and how you will be hanging up the bat houses.
- *Optional:* Put the finishing touches on your Bat Houses and hang them on Build Day. The volunteers will love to see the children's education come to life. It could also be fun for the students to use their Bat Quiz and test the volunteers' knowledge!

Reflection

Talk about the impact the children had on your site: How many bats will be protected because of these houses? What will that do for your local ecosystem? What will it do for the visitors to your site?

Brainstorm ways that the children can help to protect the other types of wildlife in your area. Tell them to share what they've learned with their friends and family!

Materials needed (makes one)

1/4 sheet (2' x 4') 1/2" outdoor grade plywood
1" x 2" (0.75" x 1.75" finished) x 8' pine
(such as a furring strip)
20" x 22 1/2" 1/8" plastic mesh
30 to 40 1 1/4" multipurpose drywall screws
5/16" staples
1 tube acrylic caulk
1 pint exterior latex paint

Recommended tools

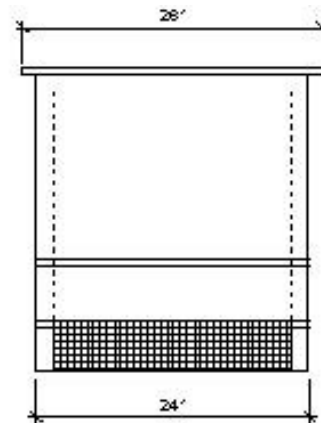
Table saw, Caulking gun, Drill with Philips bit, Scissors, Stapler, Tape measure, and Painting supplies

Construction procedure

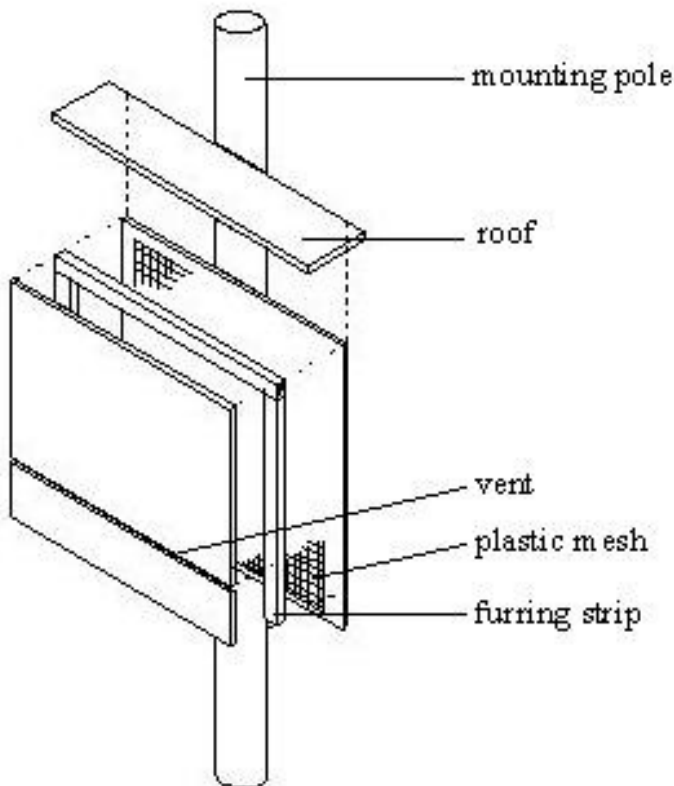
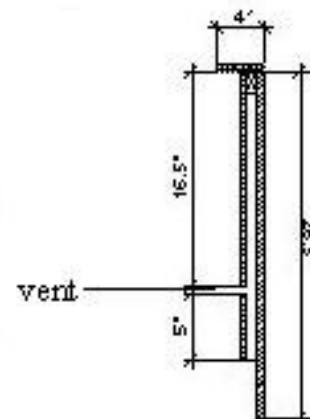
1. Measure and cut plywood into three pieces: 26.5" x 24" ; 16.5" x 24" ; 5" x 24"
2. Measure and cut furring strip into one 24" and two 20 1/4" pieces.
3. Screw back to furring strips, caulking first. Start with 24" piece at top.
4. Staple the netting to inside surface of back, starting at the bottom. Be sure netting lies flat and does not pucker.
5. Screw front to furring strips, top piece first (don't forget to caulk). Leave 1/2" vent space between top and bottom front pieces.
6. Caulk around outside joints if needed to seal roosting chamber.
7. Attach a 4" x 28" board to the top for a roof if desired.

Paint the exterior at least twice.

Front View



Side View



Assembly View