

HOW TO BUILD A PUP CATCHER FOR YOUR BAT HOUSE



Add a pup catcher!

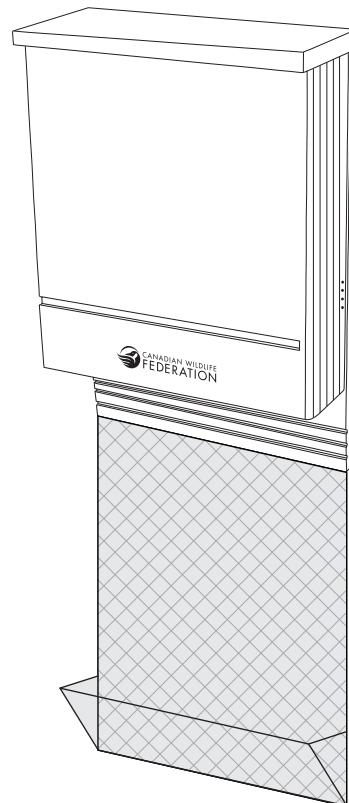
If you're lucky to have your bat house occupied as a maternity roost, there will be pups present in June and July. They can sometimes fall from bat houses, especially crowded or hot ones as bats move around to cool down. Installing a pup catcher helps prevent a dangerous fall.

Materials

- Screening or mesh approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ " holes (this allows bat guano to pass through)
 - » Window screen or durable plastic is ideal. Do not use thin, loose netting with larger holes as this can entangle the bats.
- Staplegun and staples or $\frac{1}{2}$ " screws and washers
- Wood board, 16" x 2" (you can use the remaining bit of plywood from the bat box pattern)
- Zip ties or rope

Assembly

- 1 | Cut the mesh to 18" wide (or two inches wider than the bat house if not our DIY design) by 36" long.
- 2 | Lay the mesh flat, place the piece of wood widthwise underneath the mesh 6" from the bottom and 1" from either side, then attach the mesh to the wood using staples or screws and washers. (If using mesh with smaller hole size, you can angle the piece of wood so that guano will slide to the lower side and to the ground.)
- 3 | Fold the bottom 6 inches up and attach the left corner, $\frac{1}{2}$ " inset from the edge, using rope or zip ties. Repeat with the right side of the mesh. This will create the bottom pocket and insetting the corners will help it stay open.
- 4 | Attach the mesh to the back of the bat house landing pad, ensuring the pocket is facing towards the front of the box, using staples or screws and washers (for the bats' safety, be sure the screws don't poke through the front of the box).
- 5 | When installing the bat house, screw the 2" piece of wood to the surface the bat box is attached to, ensuring the mesh is pulled tight so bats don't get entangled.
- 6 | If the pocket doesn't stay open well on its own, install a piece of wood or other material on each side to hold it open.



For additional information on bats: HelpTheBats.ca | info@cwf-fcf.org

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Bat Safety concerns:

- 1 | If installing a pup catcher to the front of the landing pad instead of the back (ex. for an already installed bat house), use a 2" piece of wood to sandwich the mesh by screwing through the wood, mesh and into the landing pad. This prevents loose edges the bats could catch on.
- 2 | If using screws in any of these steps, be certain they don't poke through into the bat house or landing pad.
- 3 | Do not use tape, glue or silicone as these can come loose and entangle the bats
- 4 | Ensure the mesh is pulled tight for all attachments. Loose netting can entangle bats.
- 5 | Do not attach to an existing bat house if it is occupied by bats. Wait until bats have left for hibernation. Working on an occupied bat house could cause the bats to fly out, posing a risk for the installer and disturbing bats when roosting.
- 6 | If possible, angle the catcher out from the building/pole to create a slight slide as opposed to a straight fall.

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