

Living with Bats

Did you know, Nevada has 24 species of bats that live in the state? Bats can be found all around the state and help humans in many ways including pest control. A single bat can eat about 1000 insects in one hour!



Bat in Home:

Sometimes bats find their way into our homes when they are searching for food. If the bat has not had contact with people or pets, it can be encouraged to leave on its own.

- Close any doors to the room the bat is in.
- Open windows as wide as possible and remove any screens.
- Dim the lights in the room and turn off any outside lights near the exit.
- Wait for the bat to leave on its own.

To make sure it has left, check high spaces like curtains, corners, closets and other dark places in the room or behind frames. Check the ground as well in case the bat has been injured. If a bat is on the ground, please call NDOW for further instruction. Once you are sure the bat has left the room seal up windows.

Bats at Home:

Manmade structures such as homes or sheds can make a great place for bats to roost! Bats can also be found on fences or in trees around your home as well. If you find a bat in a place you find questionable there is no need to panic, sometimes they use our houses to rest when they are migrating or during the day as a place to sleep. If you notice the bat staying on the house for more than a week, wait for the bat to leave at night then exclude the bat from the area. For more information on excluding bats, <https://www.pests.org/get-rid-of-bats/> is a great resource!

Bats Nesting in Home:

Bats may be attracted to places in homes like attics to have their young because they are safe and secluded. Bats nest and have their young from May-September. Its important to NEVER exclude bats during this time. Young bats cannot fly and will be left in your home.

- After breeding season is over (after August) close all openings that the bats are using except for one, wait until night after the bats leave and close the last opening.
- If this is unsuccessful, critter removal companies can be contacted for assistance with exclusion of bats.

Found a Dead Bat:

In the case that you find a dead bat, you can reach out to us, the Nevada Department of Wildlife, or the Nevada Department of Agriculture to get the bat tested for rabies.

Rabies:

In Nevada, less than 1% of bats have rabies. Rabies is a disease that can be carried by any mammal species and is not specific to just bats. The likelihood of contracting rabies from a bat is extremely low. Only 1-3 cases of rabies in humans are reported to the CDC annually. The best way to protect yourself is to avoid direct contact with any wild animal. If a bat is on the ground for an extended period of time or appears dead, please reach out to us!

How to Prevent Exposure to Rabies:

- Leave wildlife alone, especially sick or injured wildlife.
- Make sure pets are up to date on vaccinations.
- If you find a dead bat at your home, give us a call to get it tested.
- If you are bitten, scratched or unsure, talk to your healthcare provider. Rabies is preventable with prompt medical treatment.

For more information on rabies, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/index.html>

Important phone numbers:

Nevada Department of Wildlife – 775-688-1500
Nevada Department of Agriculture - 775-353-3601

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