

CONSTRUCTION and REPAIRS

- Don't leave openings during construction that may allow bats to move in before the building is finished.
- Be sure joints are perfectly mated. A well-built home is tight. Gaps around walls and gables are unacceptable.
- Screen soffit vents with sturdy non-corroding metal screen. Perforated aluminum is best. Don't use fiberglass or plastic netting.
- Seal roof peak vents with metal screen. Seal edges tightly with non-corroding nails or staples like monel or stainless steel.
- Fill in cracks. Bats can enter through very tiny openings. Use wood and caulk. Spray foam is not advisable because it crumbles in the heat. If you do use foam, paint it when dry, so it will last longer and re-spray *before* it falls out and bats move back in.
- **Zinc Roofs:** Use small squares of old metal window screen in openings to preserve ventilation. If spray foam is used, trim neatly, paint and replace often. Specially shaped wooden eaves closures can be ordered to fit under corrugated roofing.
- **Spanish Tiles:** Bats can live under curved Spanish tiles. This is not usually a problem, as the bats aren't inside the house. To prevent bats from moving in under tiles, install the eaves closure that comes with the tiles securely, making sure all seams are tight.



CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Insect-eating bats naturally roost in hollow trees or those with loose peeling bark. These days, bats have fewer natural habitats.

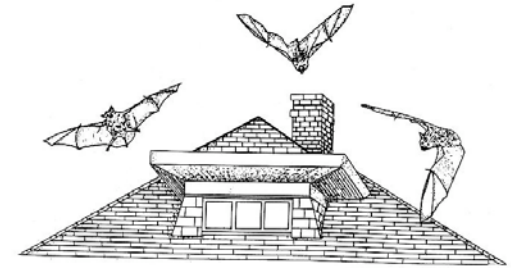
The Bat Conservation Program with the help of CUC has installed almost 100 "Bat Houses" on Grand Cayman. These replace lost natural roosting spaces for insect-eating bats. Fruit bats do not live in bat houses or in roofs.

Our bat houses are storm-tested and survived Hurricane Ivan with bats safely inside. Without these bats, the insect problems post-Ivan would have been even worse! Bat houses have also helped to prevent bats from moving into wind-damaged roof spaces.



As more *erected,* and Cayman Islands bats become accustomed to using them, it is hoped that the problem of bats inhabiting human roofs will stop.

For more information call the
LIME Wildlife Hotline 917-BIRD or visit
www.caymanwildlife.org or
www.nationaltrust.org.ky



BAT PROOFING YOUR BUILDING

As you make repairs or finish a new building, be sure that no bats are living inside your roof. Bats do not pose a health hazard. They do not chew wood or wires, or damage structures. But they do present an odour problem over time. To find out if bats are in your roof, watch at dusk to see if they come out from under loose joints or open vents, usually on the upper west side of a building. This brochure is written to help homeowners and contractors **seal bats out, instead of sealing them in!**

Read this flyer carefully. If you need help, call the LIME Wildlife Hotline 917-BIRD for advice in removing bats humanely, safely and permanently.



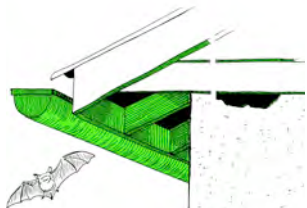
IF BATS ARE IN THE ROOF

If you find bats living in the roof, they can be humanely removed in several ways. Call the LIME Wildlife Rescue Hotline for a **free site visit** and advice or download free information from the list on the bottom of the "Bats" page on www.caymanwildlife.org.

Never try to exclude bats between the first of June and mid-November because baby bats cannot fly yet. Adult bats fly out almost every night at dusk to feed so if all other possible re-entry holes are filled first, the exit hole can be plugged after bats leave your building at night. Never plug the exit hole during the day while bats are still inside. Plug the hole after they leave at dusk and then re-open it briefly on the following two nights to make sure all bats are out. Seek help if you are unsure because trapped bats may find their way into the main living quarters in their efforts to escape.

If you find bats inside the house, don't panic. Catch them gently with a thick bath towel and put them outside to fly away. For emergencies call LIME Wildlife Hotline 917-BIRD.

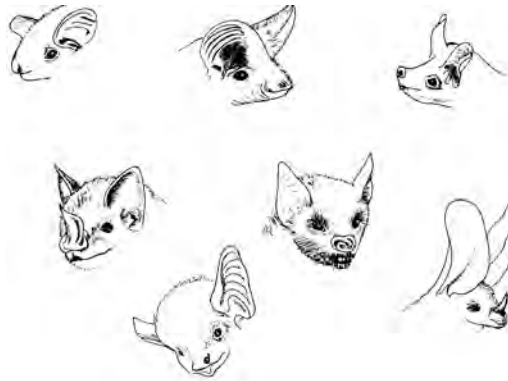
If you find an injured bat (or bird) call LIME Wildlife Rescue Hotline 917-BIRD.



CAYMAN ISLANDS' BATS

The Cayman Islands have ten kinds of bats, including one endemic subspecies that lives only on Grand Cayman and nowhere else in the world. This rare bat is sometimes known to roost in roof spaces.

The bats most often found in roof spaces are Velvety Free-tailed Bats. These bats eat mosquitoes, moths and beetles. They benefit farmers because many of the insects they eat are crop pests. Bats have only one baby per year, so populations grow slowly. Loss of these bats would dramatically increase the number of insect crop pests and mosquitoes here.



It is the more common species that occur in large numbers that are the most important ecologically, as they have a major impact on insect populations.

Fruit Bats roost in trees and are not found in roof spaces or bat houses. Most Grand Cayman Fruit Bats were killed in Hurricane Ivan. Call the LIME Wildlife Hotline 917-BIRD for information about solving problems with fruit bats or visit www.caymanwildlife.org.



AS YOUR BUILDING IS FINISHED:

Monitor plumbers, electricians

and TV cable installers. They may need to cut holes for wires, cables or pipes. Be sure that there are NO bats inside and that they seal all these holes with wood, caulk, masonry or other appropriate materials. Screens covering roof vents should never be cut to run wires or cables to the inside.

Inform and educate tenants, renters or guests. Let them know that if they remove a screen from a vent or if a soffit is opened for any reason, it must be closed up immediately to prevent bats from moving in. Also, explain that any holes drilled to run wires, TV cables or plumbing must be carefully sealed.

If bats are discovered in the building there is no cause for alarm. Call the Bat Conservation Program at LIME Hotline 917-BIRD or the National Trust at 949-0121 for advice about how to solve your particular problem. Proper, environmentally-sound bat removal is simple, effective and inexpensive.

