

## Bat Houses are for Kids Too!

### Bat Houses Are Fun, Educational, And Good for the Environment!

Cayman Islands' bats need someplace to live. They are not welcome in roof spaces, and most of the old forests have been cut down to make way for development.

Special bat houses are being used now to give these interesting little animals a place to go. Cayman's bats love these bat houses and live in them by the hundreds! Most of the schools in the Cayman Islands have bat houses and this helps to keep the bats away from the classrooms and other buildings.

Bat houses are fun, easy and cheap to build. Instructions for building several different types of bat houses are available through [www.batcon.org](http://www.batcon.org) and [www.caymanwildlife.org](http://www.caymanwildlife.org) – Remember, we live on an island surrounded by salt water – Be sure to use non-rusting stainless steel screws and nails or your bat house will fall apart in just a few years. Call us on the LIME Wildlife Hotline 917-BIRD for advice about building or buying a bat house for your home or school.

If a bat house is put up on the side of a building or on a tall post, bats can find it and will move in!

Bats here always look around buildings for **habitat**. Bat houses are highly successful and the Cayman Islands and our design is now being copied by other countries.

Many people enjoy having a bat house in the garden. There are always colonies of bats looking for new homes. Watching and counting the bats as they fly out each night is interesting and educational. Droppings can be collected from underneath the bat house and used in the garden. Only insect-eating bats will live in bat houses. Fruit bats will not use them.

People who are getting bats out from their roofs should put up a bat house as part of the job. This way the bats will not move into another part of the roof or the neighbour's roof spaces! Bats need safe, permanent homes to sleep in the daytime and raise their babies.

If you find a sick bat, never touch it. Call Lime Wildlife Hotline **917-BIRD** and ask for help.

