

Bats

Are there bats in Alberta?

There are nine different species of bats residing at various times of the year within the Province of Alberta.

Do bats only come out at night?

Bats are nocturnal mammals that normally feed at night or during evening hours on insects (e.g. mosquitoes) found in marshy type environments (e.g. slough).

Are bats a threat to humans?

Bats do not generally pose a threat to humans, however bats may carry the rabies virus, so if people are exposed to a bat especially indoors, then there is a risk to human health. Contact with bat droppings and urine may also cause an illness in humans. In these situations, the individual should see their doctor or call their local Public Health Office or Health Link.

Where do you find bats?

During winter months most of the bats found in Alberta will either migrate to a warmer climate area or hibernate in cave/attic type environments. During summer months these bats can be found roosting in colonies, in warm, dark, and poor ventilated areas (e.g. attics, under roof eaves) that are close to their water source. Presence of bats may be indicated by their squeaking and scratching noises, staining of building materials and/or odors that may occur due to their presence in large numbers.

How do you get rid of bats?

Once entry sites have been found/determined the most effective means of removing bats from their roosting place is to seal off openings, via screen mesh (0.2 inch), caulking, sheet metal or shingles, leaving one entrance open that has been equipped with a one way valve or plug that may permit bat(s) to leave the roost area but not re-enter. The most effective time of year to seal entrances is in the fall after young bats are old enough to leave the roost area, thus preventing winter hibernating. Use of chemicals to control bat populations is not recommended, as contact with humans or animals may take place.

What should you do if you find a dead bat?

Do not pick up the bat. Contact your local Environmental Health Officer for further advice.

For more information, please contact your nearest Environmental Public Health Services office.

Edmonton Main Office	(780) 413-7928	Spruce Grove	(780) 962-7509
Capital Health Centre - South Tower	(780) 735-1400	Leduc	(780) 980-4644
Strathcona	(780) 467-5571	St. Albert	(780) 459-6671

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