

Examples for Bat Exclusion Device Installation

Adapted from BCI <http://www.batcon.org/resources/for-specific-issues/bats-in-buildings/excluding-a-colony>

GENERAL INFORMATION

These recommendations are intended to assist homeowners by providing do-it-yourself examples for excluding a colony of bats from a structure. Please visit the websites referenced in this document for more information.

Bat exclusions should not be attempted during the maternity season to avoid trapping flightless young inside structures. In Georgia, **the period when exclusions should be avoided is from April 1st to July 31st**. If exclusions must be completed during this time period, a state permitted Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator should complete the work. A list of permitted companies is available on our website.

Because not all bats will exit every night, **one-way exits should be left in place for a minimum of five nights**, including at least three consecutive nights of weather conducive to bat flight (temperatures above 50 degrees F, winds below 10 mph, and no sustained or heavy rains) before they are removed and the entrances permanently sealed. It is also recommended that devices be monitored to ensure no bats become trapped or entangled.

EXCLUDING BATS WITH A ONE-WAY DOOR

A bat colony exclusion can be completed using a one-way door on the outside of the vent or opening constructed from plastic netting or sheeting that is firmly attached at the top and sides. The netting should be left unattached along the bottom edge and it should extend 18-24 inches below the exit point (Figure 1).

Once the homeowner has confirmed that there are no bats remaining in the structure, galvanized hardware cloth with 1/8 inch mesh should be placed on the interior of the attic vents or openings. The hardware cloth should be secured very well with no gaps on the edges. Attics should also be checked for additional repairs such as squirrel holes or structural gaps that could allow bats to enter. If bats return to roost on the outside of the screened attic vents, these areas can be excluded and then screened on the exterior of the vent with galvanized hardware cloth. Recommendations for repair materials can be found on the referenced websites.

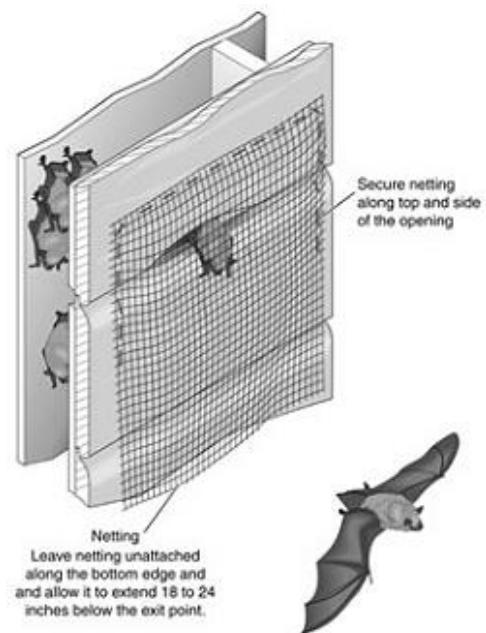


Figure 1. Example of a one-way door for bat exclusion (courtesy of Bat Conservation International).

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EXCLUDING BATS USING TUBES

Tubes can be used to exclude bats from small openings in areas where mesh cannot be attached and on the corners of structures. Exclusion tubes should be 2 inches in diameter and 10 inches in length (Figure 2). They can be constructed from PVC pipe, flexible plastic tubing, a used caulk tube or they can be purchased commercially. If bats are entering and exiting the structure in several places, multiple exclusion devices may be required. Before you begin an exclusion, be sure that all available entry points to the structure are sealed or covered by an exclusion device.

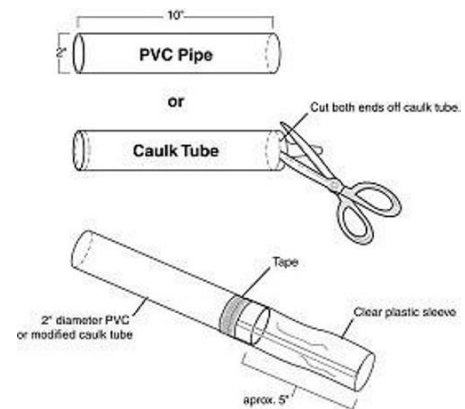


Figure 2. Specifications for exclusion tubes (courtesy of Bat Conservation International).

After the tube has been secured into an opening used by bats, any spaces between the outside of the tube and the building must be sealed completely (Figures 3). The tube should be placed approximately 1/4 inch into the opening and secured in place using caulking, staples, nails or screws. Tubes can also be used along with hardware cloth to exclude bats from larger openings such as a chimney (Figure 4). A piece of lightweight, clear plastic can be taped around the end of the tubes to prevent bats from being able to re-enter through the devices.

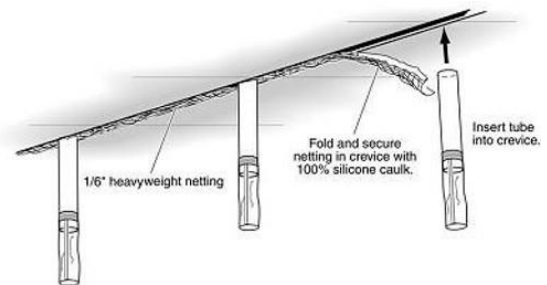


Figure 3. Example of the installation of multiple tubes for bat exclusion (courtesy of Bat Conservation International).

Once the homeowner has confirmed that there are no bats remaining in the structure, the devices should be removed and the opening permanently sealed with water-based silicone caulking, caulk-backing rod, hardware cloth, wood or heavy-duty mesh. It may also be necessary to repair old, deteriorated wood.

Please visit the websites referenced in this document for more information about bats and bat exclusions.

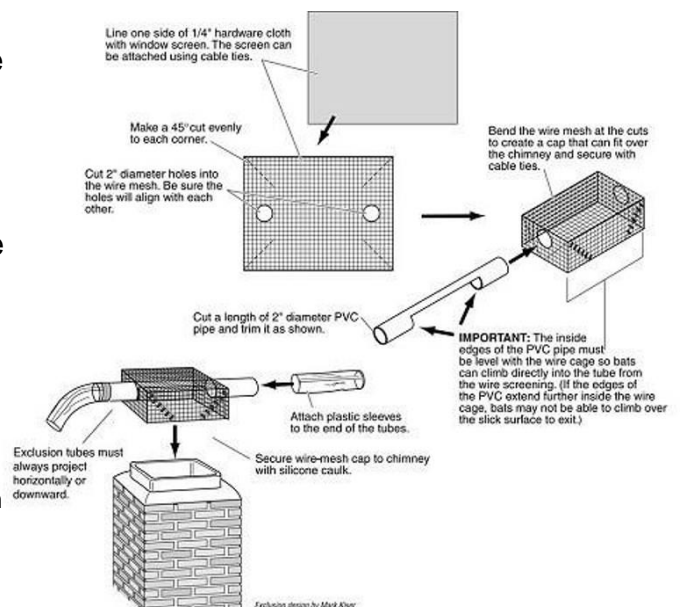


Figure 2. Specifications for a chimney exclusion device (courtesy of Bat Conservation International).

More information is available on our website:

<https://georgiawildlife.com/ExcludingBatsFromYourHouse>

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