

fauNature Bat Box



Encouraging wildlife at home!

Thank you for purchasing a fauNature roosting box. It is hoped this “home” will give you many hours of pleasure, as it provides sanctuary for our furry friends.

Bats naturally roost in tree hollows, under loose bark and a small number of species utilise caves. The clearing of native trees across Australia has resulted in the loss of millions of natural hollows. The devastation is particularly apparent in urban environments, which account for 85% of the nation’s human population.

With habitat loss, some bats species have adapted to using a range of man-made structures for daytime roosts, including houses (often without the occupant even knowing) and bat boxes. These boxes provide artificial roosts and are important for conservation, but they cannot entirely replace natural tree hollows.



Which animals will use the roosting box?

Over 200 bird and mammal species rely on hollows for nesting or shelter throughout Australia. These include bats, possums, gliders, parrots, kingfishers, raptors, and ducks as well as other lesser-known species. This roosting box has been specifically designed for the smaller insectivorous bats (e.g. Gould’s Wattle Bat, Chocolate Wattle Bat, Little Forest Bat, Large Forest Bat and the Lesser Long-eared Bat).

Siting and installation instructions

You’ve bought this roosting box to enjoy it, so locate it where you can see the bats emerge in the evenings and can access it if necessary. It is preferable if certain considerations are met:

Place the roosting box as high as practical off the ground, at least four (4) metres. Affixing to a mature tree is ideal; while buildings, light poles or similar can also be very effective.

Bats may use a number of roost sites, which can be either permanent or seasonal. Recent studies have shown that some male bats may use up to 20 different roost sites across their territory. During summer, bats seem to prefer a roosting box that faces from North through to West and receives maximum sunlight. Placing a few roosting boxes on a tree at a similar height increases the speed with which bats may find them and allows for slight microclimatic variation between each box. Thus, the specifics of erecting the roosting box will vary from one location to another.



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Hanging a roosting box by wire was historically recommended to prevent damage to the tree. However, the damage done by securing bolts is likely to be minimal; while wire-mounted boxes compromise the tree, if not regularly managed.

A couple of tek screws (100mm) have been included to enable you to affix the box to a tree. Pre-drill the tree. Screw the top tek screw through the upper hole in the backing board, and into the tree. Next drill the lower hole, then screw in the second tek screw. Tighten both screws, ensuring the box is firmly affixed to the tree.

The use of “PV Spacers”, small spacing rings which fit over the tek screws between the tree and the box, is highly recommended. They serve two purposes 1) simplify the installation process on difficult trees; 2) perhaps more importantly allow the tree room to grow while minimising the impact on either the tree or the box. These have also been included with your box.

Bats may take from some months to some years to occupy a newly placed roosting box, so a little patience may be required.

Potential predators

Cats are one of the few species that may come into conflict with bats. Placing the roosting box high enough, where the bats have a clear flight path to the entrance will reduce the likely hood of predation. “Tree collars” are guards which can be placed around the trunk of a tree which may prevent cats from gaining access to a roost. While guards are not essential, placing the box a suitable distance above the ground and use of such devices may be particularly useful in reducing the impact of cats.

Keeping the roosting box clean

Putting up the roosting box is just the first step, for its continued success maintenance is crucial. The box (assembled) has already been treated. However, to extend its useful life we would recommend re-treatment/coating the exterior of the box with oil or paint. If oil is used (e.g. environmentally friendly Lanotec timber seal), it is recommended to retreat the box every 1-2 years, or exterior grade acrylic paint is likely to last the life of the box, with a few minor touch-ups. The PV Spacers will need to be replaced every 12-24 months.

Note: It is recommended unvaccinated individuals avoid touching bats, whether alive or dead.

Enjoy your new neighbours

Some roosting boxes are occupied quickly, others may take a little longer. Often you will attract the species you are targeting, though not always. Either way, we hope you enjoy providing for your wild neighbours.



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