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Micro bat box Installation Tips

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1) Installation Height: 3 to 4 metres high is a good height to install the box. Any lower than 3 metres and ground predators (like cats) could climb or jump and eat the bats. Generally most animals don't enter the entrance gap of the box.

2) Orientation: Between North-West and South. Preferably East. Half sun and half shade seems to work the best.

3) Air space below box. 2m x 2m x 2m air space under the box. This is for the bats to swoop in and out. They are a little like aircraft and require take off and landing space. Past experience has proven that any obstructions immediately below the box will deter the bats.

4) Reasonably quiet location. High frequency sounds such as steel chains clanking can really disturb the bats. Chain saws and other electric and power garden tools don't seem to upset them.

5) Location: The boxes can be installed on trees or houses. In fact the bats find them quicker if they are mounted on a house. By instinct they seem to know that human habitat offers them great housing. The older the house the better.



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6) Inspection. To see if you have any bats in the box, just stand directly below the entrance, briefly shine a red torch up and look at the inner rear wall. The bats will sometimes cling to the mesh and you can see a definite black blob hanging in there. Don't hold the torch for really long periods because if the bats are awake they will not like the light. Contrary to popular belief the bats are not blind and can see.

7) Arrival: When will they arrive? Depends on several factors. **Timing.** Bats generally shut down over winter and aren't exploring as much as Spring, Summer and Autumn. They are extremely curious and always looking for new homes. Looking for a new place to roost takes lots of energy and this happens when the temperatures are warmer with plenty of insects around for food. **Existing Population.** If there are bats in the area they will find it quicker. Once one finds the box it will go and tell its mates. **Water.** If you are within 4 to 10 kilometres of a water body such as lake, river or large body of water they will come faster. Surprising enough micro bats do come down to swimming pools to drink. **Bushland**– If you are close to some type of natural bushland it increases your chances of attracting the bats. This has to do with the amount of insects that come out at night from these areas. Bats have been recorded arriving within two months to three years within the metro area. Patience is the key.

8) Pray: Don't give up!!!!!! When you think it hasn't worked something will happen. As humans we live in a world of instant gratification. The animal kingdom doesn't live by these rules. Time will work for you and not against. Waiting for bats is a little like having a religion. You have to keep the faith, results are not always immediately obvious, these creatures are dark, mysterious and not easily seen.