

Capturing a Bat: What You Need To Know

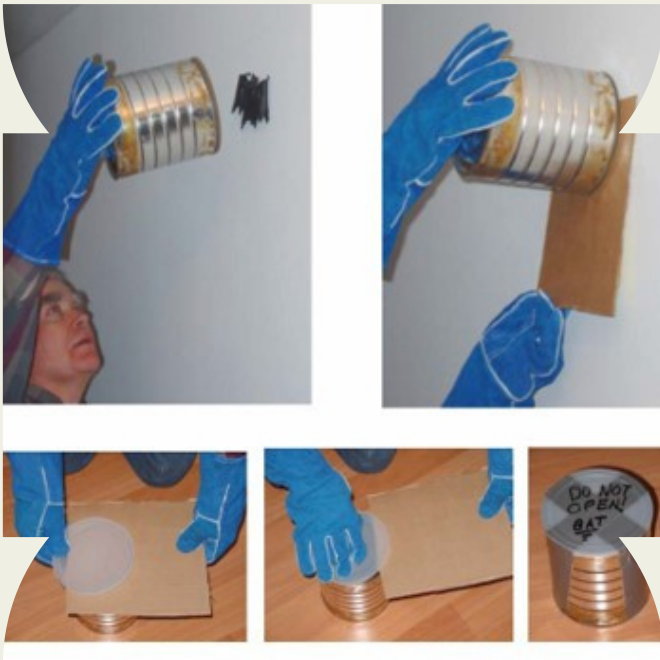
Items for a Bat Capture Kit

- Heavy gloves, preferably pliable and made of thick leather.
- Kitchen tongs or forceps, 9" to 12" in length.
- A coffee can or similar container, preferably with a tight-fitting lid.
- A sheet of cardboard.
- Tape.
- A net with fine mesh and a long handle.
- A flashlight to locate the bat without scaring it and causing it to fly around.



When to Capture a Bat

- If there is any possibility that a person has come into contact with the bat, even if no visible wounds are present.
- If the bat is found near an unattended child, a sleeping person, someone with a sensory or mental impairment, or a pet.



How to Capture a Bat

Using a Container

1. Close all doors and windows to the room, then wait for the bat to land.
2. Approach slowly and place a container over the bat.
3. Slide a piece of cardboard between the wall and the container, lifting both away from the wall as a unit.
4. Carefully slide the cardboard off the container while simultaneously securing the appropriately sized lid.
5. Tape the lid to the container to prevent the bat from escaping, and label it to avoid accidental opening.
6. Contact your local board of health for further instructions.

Using a Net

- Bats are highly sensitive to movement, so approach from behind.
- Use a fine-mesh net with a long handle to capture the bat.
- Transfer the bat to a container using forceps or while wearing thick leather gloves.