



Northern Inter-Tribal
Health Authority
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Health Advisory



BAT PREVENTION TIPS

It is important to keep bats from entering into your home. Bats pose a risk of transmitting rabies to people.

To keep bats from getting into your building ...

- ⇒ **Close unscreened doors and windows, especially at dusk and during the night**
- ⇒ **Repair damaged screens**
- ⇒ **Cap chimneys**
- ⇒ **Seal all openings to your attic, basement or walls larger than 1/2 square inch. Use spray foam, caulk, wire mesh, wood, steel wool or bird netting to seal holes.**

If a bat accidentally gets into your home, open the door and windows and wait for the bat to follow the fresh air. Bats usually rest during the day, so this works best at dusk or nightfall.

If you have to remove a bat from your home ...

- ⇒ **Wait until the bat has landed, place an empty can or wastebasket over the bat, slide cardboard underneath, or use a net.**
- ⇒ **If the bat is flying, try striking it with a broom to knock it down.**
- ⇒ **NEVER handle a bat with your bare hands. Wear thick gloves or pick up the bat with a shovel or dust pan.**
- ⇒ **Put the bat in a sealed can or jar, or place in a strong plastic bag.**

NEVER release a live bat or throw out a dead bat that has bitten, scratched or had direct contact with a person or pet (eg: found in the room of a sleeping person, as bites or scratches may not be noticeable). Contact your Health Centre to see if the bat needs to be sent away for testing.

If you have health-related questions about bats, please contact your Environmental Health Officer. If you have health-related questions about rabies, or bat bites, please contact your Health Centre.



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