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## **BATS**

### What are they and how are they recognised?

Bats come in several sizes, some are only the size of a human thumb so can crawl into tiny cracks and crevices in trees, walls, eaves and roofs. They have brown or grey fur on their backs and usually paler beneath, with comparatively large, leathery wings that are folded against the body when roosting. Flying bats can appear to be much larger – their wingspan can be up to 40cm. Bat droppings can be found below roost entrances (holes, cracks etc). They are dark brown or black and about a centimetre long, similar to mouse droppings.

### Where are they found?

Bats can be found everywhere, wherever there are roosting places for them including:

- holes and cracks in trees
- roofs and walls of houses and buildings
- under bridges
- underground in caves
- old railway tunnels

Every building and mature tree is a potential bat roost.

### When are they found?

Bats may be found hibernating in caves, buildings or trees from November to March, and possibly in October and April. New-born young and female bats may be found in breeding roosts in buildings and trees from May to September.

### What should be done if a bat or bat roost is found?

If a bat or a bat roost is found stop works immediately and consult an expert. It is illegal to injure, kill, capture or disturb a bat, or to damage trees,



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buildings or other places used for roosting (even if bats are not currently present). Only licensed bat-workers are legally allowed to enter known bat roosts or to capture or handle bats.

### Penalties

Breaking the law can lead to fines of up to £5000 per offence and, potentially, prison sentences of up to six months. Damaging or destroying a bat roost – even if not in use at the time – can lead to prosecution. Any vehicle or other items used to commit the offence may be forfeited.

**Both the company and/or individuals can be held liable.**