



Build your own bat box

Create a home for bats in your garden using this step by step guide.



There are 18 different species of bats living in the UK. They can weigh as little as a 2p coin and can eat up to 3,000 insects a night! Bats make their home in what are called roosts. These can be in natural structures such as the hollows of trees, or human-built structures including buildings or bat boxes.

What you'll need:

- An adult – supervision and help are needed for this task
- Untreated wood – approximately 2.5cm thick. If re-using pallet wood always check the pallet stamp and never stain or paint the wood (see guide)
- Rubber flap– such as an old bike tyre
- Tape measure and pencil
- Hammer, nails & odourless wood glue
- Hand saw & gloves

Pallet Stamps

To keep your wildlife and yourself safe choose a pallet has not been chemically treated. The stamp will

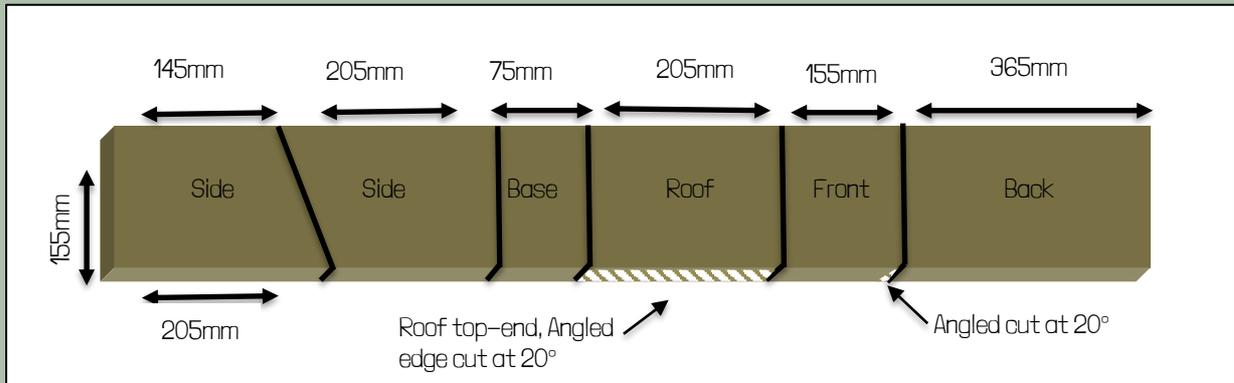
show either:

- ✓ DB = Debarked wood
- ✓ HT = Heat treated
- ✓ KD = Kiln dried
- ✓ DH = Dielectric Heated
- X MB = Methyl Bromide



What to do/instructions:

1. Measure and mark the size of the wood you need to cut. Write the name of each piece on the wood. All measurements are given below. Wear gloves to protect you from splinters.



2. Cut the wood to size. Use an un-gloved hand to hold the saw so that you have a safe grip. Make sure that you get an adult to help you.
3. On the piece of wood cut for the back wall; at every 1cm interval, mark with a pencil straight lines running the length of the wood horizontally. Then run the saw lightly across each marked line, in a straight line back and forth until there is a groove of 1–2mm deep. These will face the inside of the bat box. These grooves are used by the bats as a ladder or landing area.
4. Cut the roof edge that will sit up against the back wall at a 20° angle so that it will angle downwards. As shown in the pictures below.
5. Cut the top edge of the front piece, where it meets the roof at a 20° angle too, so that the slanted roof will sit flat on it (this will leave the back piece with an angled edge, this will not affect your design).



- Fix all cut pieces of the bat box together carefully using hammer and nails. Leave 10cm of the back piece free underneath the box. There will be a 15mm entrance gap between the back and the base of you bat box.



- Use the wood glue to fill in any gap between the wood sides. This keep the bat box watertight and prevents a draught, which bats hate!
- Cut the rubber flap so that it is big enough to cover the join between the back and the roof of the bat box. And fix it to the roof and back piece using nails.

Do not use removable lids and do not open the box once it is installed. Bats homes or 'roosts' are protected by law.

- Attach bat box to the tree at least 5m off the ground to prevent any other curious creature from reaching it.



Bats and the law

Bats are protected by law and only a person with a 'Bat license' can legally disturb a roost. So do not open the bat box if you think you have a bat inside.

You can easily look for tiny bat droppings on the floor under the roost. Or watch the entrance at dusk for visitors.

If you have an urgent query about a bat, please call the Bat Conservancy Trust on their Bat Helpline 0345 1300 228.