



Roostwatch.je



Looking for roosts

Bats need to find safe dark spaces to rest, unlike birds and rodents they don't make nests but use existing cracks and crevices. They find these spaces in a wide variety of places from buildings to trees and underground places such as caves and bunkers.

Where to look

> Buildings

Look for places with small gaps as bats only need a gap of a few centimetres to hide away in. There are many places on buildings new and old that might be used by bats, the following illustration shows just a few examples.

> Trees

Bats can use a variety of features on trees in which to roost. These include holes such as woodpecker holes and rot holes, cracks in branches that have split or even just behind ivy or lifted bark. These roosts are difficult to find, and bats often switch between these roosts, so may not roost in the same place every day.

A good way to see if bats are roosting in a tree is to watch the tree at dusk or dawn and look out for bats flying in or out of a hole.

What to look for

> Droppings

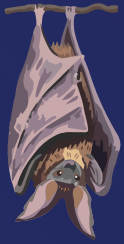
Bats often leave droppings as they leave or return to their roost, so these are a great way to look for signs of a roost.

The droppings are similar to another small mammal dropping, those of mouse and shrew. Bat droppings are made of insect remains and will easily crumble and sometimes have a slightly sparkly appearance when crumbled. Mouse droppings are usually very hard and do not crumble.

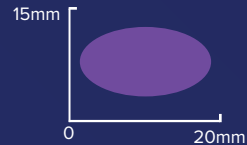
Outside, look for dropping on walls, windowsills and on the ground under a suspected roost site.

> Staining

Where the bats gather or squeeze in and out of a roost space, oil from their fur can leave dark marks or stains which provide a clue that the space might be used by bats.



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A pipistrelle can use a hole this size to enter a building

Bats only need a tiny space to roost

Some examples of the places bats use

1. Barge board
2. Roofing felt
3. Roof joists
4. Ridge tiles
5. Soffit
6. Attic
7. Lead flashing
8. Dormer window
9. Coping stones
10. Gable end
11. Broken tiles
12. Space between downpipe
13. Metal elements on balconies
14. Sash window
15. Loose mortar between bricks
16. Quoins
17. Wood cladding
18. Fascia board
19. Eaves
20. Guttering
21. Window sill
22. Porch
23. Hanging tiles



Remember bats are protected by law from disturbance, so don't go searching for bats themselves, keep light and noise to a minimum if you are heading into a loft space and withdraw if you see any signs of presence

WATCH BAT'S
EMERGING FROM
ROOSTS HERE:

