

## Keep Bats Out!

### What should I know about bats?

- Bats are beneficial and play a key role in the ecosystems throughout Alabama by eating insects, including agricultural pests.
- Unfortunately, bats can carry the rabies virus and infect humans.
- Teach children never to handle wild animals. “Love your own, leave other animals alone” is a good lesson for children to learn.
- Bats will roost in homes, churches, schools, and other similar areas.

### How can I “bat-proof” my home?

- Bats should always be prevented from entering the home.
- It is best to “bat-proof” from May through August, because most bats leave in the fall or winter to hibernate.
- For assistance with “bat-proofing” your home, contact your county animal control or wildlife conservation agency.
- If you “bat-proof” your home, here are some suggestions:
  - Examine your home for holes that allow bat entry.
  - Any opening larger than a ¼ by ½ inch should be caulked.
  - Use window screens, chimney caps, and draft-guards. Fill electrical and plumbing holes with steel wool or caulk, and ensure all doors to outside close tightly.
  - Prevent bats from roosting in attics by covering outside entry points.
  - Observe where bats exit at dusk and exclude them by loosely hanging clear plastic sheeting or bird netting over these areas.

