

APPLICATION & CONSTRUCTION

ECO HABITATS **BATS AND SWIFTS**

ECO HABITATS FOR BATS

In the UK there are 17 species of bat, all of which are protected by law. Ibstock's range of bat boxes helps to encourage safe habitats for these remarkable mammals allowing them to live in harmony with people.

FREE ACCESS BAT BOX

This is a single brick, 215x102x65mm, available in any of Ibstock's brick range, with a void allowing bats to enter the cavity of a building. The brick is positioned into the outer skin of brickwork as normal with the aperture at the bottom. The shoulders of the brick should sit on mortar but where the aperture is situated no mortar should be present to impede the aperture height.

Consider where bats could get to once inside the cavity. They cause no damage but some species prefer hanging from timbers, some need some flying space. Ideally this entrance brick can be used in outbuildings however with careful consideration, there is no reason why bats cannot live in a building designed to maintain airtightness but allow space for bats to shelter.

Bats tend to hibernate between November and March so a quiet environment during this period is required.

ENCLOSED BAT BOX

This is designed specifically for the Pipistrelle bat. Pipistrelles are crevice dwellers and this design replicates the type of environment they would head for in nature.

Available in all brick types in the stretcher bond design, or can be a single block in red, blue or buff with the option of a bat motif (more to warn us of the possible inhabitation by a bat rather than a guide to the bat itself).

Sizes available are 215 x 215mm or 215 x 290mm (215 x 290mm pictured).

The front cover is mortared into place so the unit is not intended to allow inspection. Opening a bat box is inadvisable in case of inadvertently harming the inhabitants.

Bats do not like draughts so the sealed design of the box is ideal. Place 4 or 5 metres from ground level close to trees or hedgerow as bats prefer to enter their nest under relative cover. They can also use these for echo location. However the approach to the box should be clear of obstacles such as ivy, tree branches etc.



Two to four boxes should be close-by but facing different directions to make the most of different temperatures dependent on time of year. Bats like constant temperature and humidity. Positioning to avoid prevailing wind and rain should be considered.

For further information on encouraging and living alongside these remarkable creatures contact the Bat Conservation Trust.

ECO HABITATS FOR SWIFTS

Swifts come to the UK for just a few months each summer from Central and Southern Africa. Despite legal protection their numbers are declining. Since Roman times they have made their homes in man-made buildings however they are finding it increasingly difficult to find nest sites in modern or refurbished buildings due to the effective sealing of the eaves.

Swifts often bond at a year old but only start nesting at four. They pair for life and will return to the same nest site year on year. The oldest recorded swift was 21 years old according to the RSPB.

With advice from The Swift Conservation organisation and designed by a swift colony owner and expert the Ibstock Swift box has been designed to accommodate swifts unusual nesting requirements.