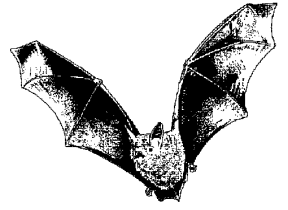




Wild Bird Center Bat's Picket Box



The following instructions are for a simple bat roosting box made out of inexpensive cedar fence pickets. The box requires only one 6' long "6 inch wide" dog-eared picket and one 5' long "4 inch wide" dog-eared picket.

1. Mark the sides of the back 1" down from the top. Attach the sides to the side of the back piece and flush with your marks. Try to attach all the boards with the rough surface on the inside. Use three nails/screws per side. Note: if using screws, you should pre-drill your holes to avoid splitting the wood.
2. Attach the top between the sides and flush with the ends. Attach the top with the dog-ears forward. Use 1 nail/screw per side and one through the back.
3. The divider is attached to the sides using a 3/4" spacer (piece of 1" dimensional lumber). Place the spacer on the back and lay the divider on top of it. Attach the divider flush with the top using 2 nails/screws per side about 1 3/4" from the back. Remove the spacer.
4. Use the spacer again to attach the long front to the sides flush with the top and sides. Use 2 nails/screw per side. With the spacer still in place, attach the short front to the sides leaving a 1/2" vent space between the long and short fronts. Attach the short front flush with the sides using 2 nails/screws per side.
5. Seal any gaps between the top and the sides and back using glue or caulk to prevent heat loss in the box.

Place your bat box at least 15' off the ground. The box should get direct sunlight in the first half of the day for at least 4 hours (if mounted in Colorado). In other words, eastern, southeastern, and southern exposures all work well providing that the box is not in direct sunlight in the afternoon. Houses, barns, utility poles, and dead trees are all good mounting places. Boxes with minimal sun exposure should be painted/stained a dark color to help them absorb heat.

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