

batcon.org  
**BAT CONSERVATION  
INTERNATIONAL**



P.O. Box 162603, Austin, TX 78716  
500 Cap. of Texas Hwy Bldg. 1, Austin, TX 78746  
Phone (512) 327-9721 Fax (512) 327-9724

March 15, 2013

David Esker  
Pikes Peak Market  
2315 Laramie Dr.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80910

Dear David,

Congratulations! We are pleased to grant you BCI's "Bat Approved" certification for your bat house design:

- Pikes Peak Market Three-Chamber Bat House

This certification is good for five years, ending March 15, 2018. We will list your approved design on BCI's Web site ([www.batcon.org](http://www.batcon.org)). Please inform BCI of any changes to this design made during the approval period.

BCI appreciates your commitment to building quality bat houses. Please give me a call should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dianne Odegard". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dianne Odegard  
Outreach Associate  
Bat House Certification Coordinator  
Bat Conservation International  
P.O. Box 162603  
Austin, Texas 78716  
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Dear Friend:

Thank you for purchasing this quality bat house. This bat house, built by David Esker, has been evaluated by Bat Conservation International. It has earned our "Bat Approved" certification, meaning the design, materials, construction and instructions have met our quality standards. Most commercially-produced bat houses are not suitable for bats, and often lack proper instructions. While there are never any guarantees, BCI-approved bat houses are likely to be used by bats when properly installed in a suitable location. Please follow the recommendations enclosed with your bat house for best results.

Providing new roosts for bats is one of the most rewarding ways that we can help wildlife. Many bats have lost their natural roosts, and by putting up this bat house, you are making a difference. You will also benefit from having fewer yard and garden pests.

Please visit [www.batcon.org/bathouse](http://www.batcon.org/bathouse) for more information about bats and bat houses. Thanks again for your efforts to help bats.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dianne Odegard".

Dianne Odegard  
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Bat House Certification Coordinator  
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## The Bat House Certification Program

As interest in bats continues to grow, so has the number of bat houses on the market. However, many bat houses are designed and/or constructed such that they are unlikely to be used by bats. Most follow outdated designs which are too small to meet the needs of bats. In addition, instructions for proper installation and treatment are often inadequate. In response, Bat Conservation International created the Bat House Certification Program in 1998 to help manufacturers build high-quality houses that bats will accept.

BCI and numerous volunteer Research Associates in the North American Bat House Research Project have conducted years of research to determine which criteria contribute to success. Results show that tall and wide designs offer greater temperature diversity, a key factor in attracting bats. Proper crevice dimensions, roughened interior and landing areas, ventilation slots, and tight, draft-free construction are also extremely important. Because accurate instructions are just as important as having a good design, it is vital that information be enclosed with each bat house sold concerning correct placement, sun exposure, painting, habitat, and other variables.

Manufacturers who wish to earn the “Bat Approved” certification must submit a finished bat house to BCI for evaluation. Bat houses will be reviewed according to the guidelines below. **Only those houses that meet all 10 criteria will be certified.** Manufacturers will be provided with a copy of the evaluation and comments. Designs not meeting BCI’s approval must be resubmitted, after the appropriate changes have been made, in order to gain certification.

BCI has developed an information booklet entitled *The Bat House Owner’s Manual*, which contains detailed instructions for proper bat house placement, painting, mounting, etc. Manufacturers certified in this program may include this booklet with each bat house sold. Booklets are available at a cost of \$1.00 each. Alternatively, manufacturers are expected to include BCI’s bat house information sheets and/or flyers with each house sold. Other literature and mounting instructions may be included with each house sold as well, but this information must be reviewed and approved before certification will be granted.

### To submit a bat house for review:

Please read the guidelines below before submitting your bat house. BCI will certify only those models that meet **all** 10 criteria. Send finished models (and information sheets, if applicable) to: BCI, North American Bat House Research Project, 500 N. Capital of TX Hwy., Building 1, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78746. There is a one-time, non-refundable processing fee of \$50 per house, which must be enclosed with each house submitted. Certified manufacturers are also required to be current members of Bat Conservation International. Bat houses will be returned if return shipping is paid, otherwise they will become property of BCI. The certification process usually takes two to four weeks. The “Bat Approved” certification will be granted for a two-year period, contingent on maintenance of the approved design and quality standards. After two years from date of certification, each model must be reevaluated.

BCI’s “Bat Approved” certification will demonstrate to prospective buyers that a bat house is acceptable to bats. Manufacturers can use the “Bat Approved” logo on bat houses, and in the instructions, packaging, and advertising (for approved bat house designs only). Advertising for approved designs must be reviewed by BCI for accurate content. BCI will provide a letter of certification for manufacturers that can be copied and included with approved models.

We hope this “Bat Approved” program will encourage manufacturers to design bat-friendly, high-quality bat houses. Those houses which successfully attract bats will further conservation efforts as well as strengthen manufacturers’ sales. As a result, everyone benefits.

For more information, contact:

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Outreach Associate  
Bat House Certification Coordinator  
Bat Conservation International  
P.O. Box 162603  
Austin, Texas 78716  
[dodegard@batcon.org](mailto:dodegard@batcon.org)  
512.327.9721, ext. 26  
[www.batcon.org](http://www.batcon.org)

Shipping address:

Bat Conservation International  
North American Bat House Research Project  
500 N. Capital of TX Hwy.  
Bldg. 1, Suite 200  
Austin, TX 78746

Revised 3/2012

## BCI'S "BAT APPROVED" GUIDELINES FOR BAT HOUSE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

1. Roost chambers must be a minimum of 20 inches tall. Taller is even better.
2. The width (side to side) of roost chambers must be at least 14 inches. Greater widths are preferred. "Rocket style" houses with continuous (360 degree) chambers are an exception. Depending on materials used, bat houses with roost chambers wider than 16 inches may require spacer blocks between partitions.
3. Roost partitions must be carefully spaced 3/4 to 1 inch apart (front to back), regardless of the number of chambers. The best crevice size for most North American bats is 3/4 inch. Houses built specifically for larger species (pallid bats and Wagner's bonneted bats), with a combination of 3/4 and 1 1/2-inch chambers, may be acceptable, provided houses are advertised for said species.  
Advertising must also state that 1 1/2-inch chambers are more attractive to wasps and other non-target animals, requiring more frequent monitoring.
4. Bat houses must possess a suitable landing area. Either a 3- to 6-inch landing area must extend below the entrance (by extending the length of the backboard), or partitions may be recessed 3 to 6 inches, such that bats may land on the inside walls of the bottom of the bat house.
5. Interior surfaces and landing areas must have adequate texture to provide footholds for bats. Rough-cut wood may suffice, or surfaces can be mechanically grooved, roughened, or scored (horizontally only) at 1/4 to 1/2-inch intervals, approximately 1/16 inches deep. Roost surfaces can also be covered with a durable plastic mesh (we recommend 1/8- or 1/4-inch square mesh [product #s 1672 or 1170] available from Internet, Inc. [1-800-328-8456] or Aquamasters [423-252-2079]). Plastic mesh must be securely stapled every two inches (up, down, and across) such that it does not sag, buckle, or curl anywhere. Mesh must not have sharp edges (trimming may be necessary). Staple points must not protrude into roost chambers, which could injure bats. Metal mesh, hardware cloth, or aluminum window screen is not acceptable, as these can cause injury to bats.
6. Screws, staples, nails, mounting hardware, or other sharp objects (including splinters) must not protrude into roost chambers. All hardware and metal components must be exterior grade (coated, brass, galvanized, etc.). With few exceptions, all major components must be assembled with screws. Nails, brads, or staples alone do not hold well over time. Any exposed metal edges (e.g. roofs) must be smooth.
7. Half-inch tall ventilation slots must be provided and be placed no more than 1/3 (one-third) the distance from the bottom. Front vents must be as long as a house is wide, and side vents (optional) should be approximately 6 inches tall by 1/2 inch wide. Decorative vents may be allowed, provided their size and position are adequate. Unvented wooden houses are acceptable if intended for cool climates only, which must be clearly stated in enclosed literature and advertising.
8. Any plywood used must be exterior grade (e.g. ACX, T1-11, BCX). Boards should come from quality stock such as cedar or pine. Pressure- or chemically-treated wood must not be used, as they contain substances which may be harmful to bats.

9. Overall construction must reflect that the bat house is a quality product. Bat houses must be durable and tightly constructed (no unplanned gaps). Caulking or gluing exterior joints (preferably during assembly) is required to prevent drafts. If not caulked or painted prior to sale, adequate instructions must be provided for customers to caulk and paint the house. Latex caulk and exterior-grade, water-based paint or stain is recommended. Bat houses must be durable and long-lasting, as they may not be occupied for two years or more.

10. Advertising and any instructions or literature included with bat houses must be approved by BCI. Unsubstantiated or misleading claims (e.g. "no more mosquito problems") will not be permitted. Instruction sheets included with bat houses must contain adequate information on painting, sun exposure, mounting height, mounting sites, and recommended distances to water and obstacles.

Revised 6/2003

Only models earning the Bat Conservation International “Bat Approved” certification will be permitted to use the “Bat Approved” logo (also see attachment) and statements:

## Bat Conservation International’s



### “Bat Approved” Certification

This bat house has been evaluated by BCI’s Bat House Certification Program, and has earned the “Bat Approved” certification.

Approved Model built by:

David Esker  
Pikes Peak Market  
2315 Laramie Dr.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80910

Date: March 15, 2013

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