



**Napa Valley PSI**  
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## **Napa Valley PSI Bat Houses**

Mexican free-tailed bats are one of the more numerous species in our area, and one that readily takes to bat houses. In our area of California they remain active throughout most of the year, flying to warmer climates such as the Coastal Ranges in the winter. These bats live for about 15 years returning to their summer roosts every year.

Our single chamber bat houses are 28" high and 20" wide, with a 1" opening at the bottom, and can accommodate approximately 80 bats. They are constructed with 5/8" exterior-grade plywood, secured with galvanized screws, glued and caulked. The chamber is lined completely with a plastic mesh securely stapled to the interior surfaces and landing area. They have been prime coated which acts as a wood preservative.

These single chamber bat houses should be mounted on flat, vertical surfaces like the side of a barn, shed or house, and 12 or more feet off the ground, but not on metal buildings. Two can be mounted back-to-back on a wood or metal post. They must be free from nearby obstacles as the bats enter from the bottom on the fly. Mounting on trees is not recommended, and they should be within ¼ mile of a permanent water source such as a reservoir or river.

In the warmer areas of Napa and Sonoma counties, they should be mounted facing south where they will receive morning sun and some afternoon shade. There are exceptions to this and mounting should be carefully researched and considered to prevent bats from overheating or not getting warm enough. Further information on bat houses and attracting bats can be found on the **Bat Conservation International's** website [www.batcon.org](http://www.batcon.org) under "get answers."

***These bat houses are produced in our mill facilities in Napa by the employees of Napa Valley PSI, a non-profit organization providing work training and work opportunities for adults with disabilities.***