

## **Bat box installation**

Check that the box is well sealed to keep warm air in and rain out – bats are so small they need to retain all the body warmth they can within the box, even small gaps in the sides or top of the box will allow warmth to escape.

Bats live in dense colonies and prefer having many roosts within a short distance of each other – they can change roost daily in response to temperatures and parasites.

Hang the boxes:

- Close to each other;
- Facing different directions of the compass (different boxes may be used at different times of the year, for temperature control);
- With the entrance facing the ground;
- At a height of 4-6m off the ground (for protection from predators);
- Not directly under an existing hollow;
- Under a sheltered tree canopy, with a clear flight path to the box – a location with no branches at all under the box is ideal;
- somewhere with easy access for maintenance;
- Near fresh water sources – e.g. dams or stock troughs;
- Using galvanised coach screws, as they corrode more slowly than other options.

Check the condition of the boxes regularly to see if they need maintenance.