

Here's what to do

# If There's a Bat in my School!

**First, don't panic. NEVER TOUCH A BAT OR ANY OTHER WILD ANIMAL. Notify a teacher or other school official immediately.**

- Bats are usually shy and gentle animals, and you cannot get rabies from just seeing a bat or being in a room or hallway with one.
- A bat that is being handled might bite in self-defense. A bat that you can approach – one that cannot fly, is on the floor or clinging to a wall – is much more likely than other bats to be sick or injured and might have rabies.
- Again: Never touch any wild animal.
- If you see a bat in your school, do not approach it or touch it. Don't pet it, catch it, comfort it, kick it aside or try to shoo it away. Stay back and call an adult.
- If you are bitten or come in direct contact with a bat, don't wait: Tell an adult immediately and get medical attention. A doctor's treatment after a bite is simple and effective.



**Remember:** Bats are usually excellent neighbors that just want to be left alone. Most of them spend their nights eating huge amounts of moths, beetles, mosquitos and other bugs that pester us in our backyards and damage crops that farmers grow. Other bats pollinate plants, just as bees and hummingbirds do, and scatter seeds that help forests grow.

Many people fear bats because they don't know anything about them. And a lot of what people think they know about bats is just wrong: Bats are not blind, they aren't flying mice and they certainly won't get tangled in your hair. Bats are very handy to have around.

**Just don't ever touch a bat.**