



# Bats Are Dying


Since 2006, Bats have been dying in unprecedented numbers in the eastern United States and Canada from White-nose Syndrome (WNS), a fatal condition associated with exposure to the fungus *Geomyces destructans*. And now WNS has spread to the Midwest. Although humans aren't susceptible, they can potentially spread the fungus between caves, mines, and other bat roost sites. We are asking for your help to prevent this fungus from infecting bat roosts in the western United States and Canada.



**Until we know more, take the following precautions to avoid the risk of spreading this devastating fungus.**

 ***Do not enter caves, mines, or other potential structures where bats roost.***

 ***If you enter, do not take ANY item (gear, clothing, boots, etc.) that has been used in caves, mines, or other potential bat roosts outside of this State/Province into this site.***

 ***Ensure ALL items used in western caves or other roost structures have been cleaned and disinfected between entering different caves/roosts in the West.*** Removing sediment (by machine wash if possible), then soaking clothing & submersible equipment for at least 10 minutes in a 10% bleach solution, Lysol all-purpose professional cleaner, or Formula 409 followed by another washing is recommended. Alternatively, clothing and submersibles can be boiled in water for 15 minutes. Hard gear & electronics can be wiped with Lysol disinfecting wipes or Formula 409.

**Help us protect bat species in the West.**

For more information please visit the web sites of the Western Bat Working Group, National Speleological Society, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Northeast Region. For more information on bats, visit <http://www.wbwg.org/> or Bat Conservation International at <http://www.batcon.org/>

