Micro Bats

During summer and autumn, microbats go into a feeding frenzy as they fatten up on insects to see them through the coming winter. Once the nights become cooler and the insects disappear, microbats lower their body temperature and go into a state of mini hibernation until their food returns in spring. Microbats can eat as much as 40% of their own body weight in a single night or several hundred insects per hour.

The smallest microbat weighs only 3 grams - about the same as a single serve sugar sachet or a single A4 sheet of paper. If these tiny bats cannot find a suitable hollow, they can fit into very small gaps and utilise your roof and walls. This is why artificial roost sites are important as they provide an alternative.

**What microbats like and dislike:**

What microbats like:

* lots of insects to give them enough supplies to last the winter months.
* safe places to live. Microbats live in a variety of roosts that vary between species. Some choose caves or mine shafts or storm water pipes, while others use tree hollows, under bark, cracks in posts, dried palms leaves or junction boxes. They are fussy about conditions and will use a particular site at different times of the year.
* lights to attract the insects they love to catch. Microbats can often be spotted swooping insects around park lights.

But they don't like:

* being disturbed, especially when roosting in winter. They are very slow to "wake up" and easy prey to cats if the roost is disturbed. Disturbance, and subsequent harm, is the main reason microbats come into care.

 

