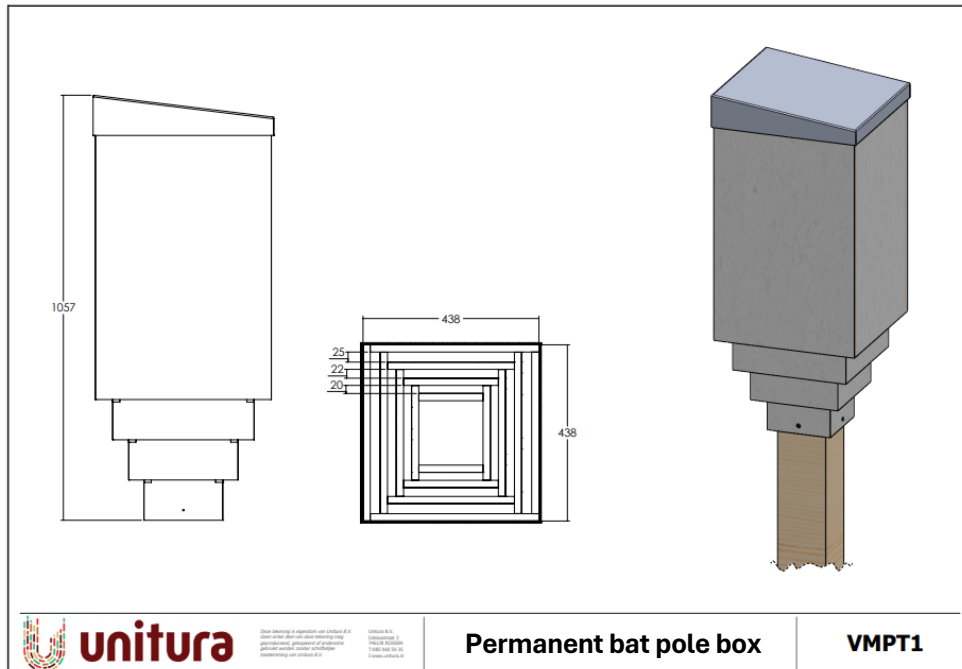


# Ecological factsheet

## VMPT1 Permanent bat pole box



## General information

### Occupancy rate

Very little scientific research is available on the occupancy rate of bat pole boxes. During Unitura's own field visits, however, it has been observed that the bat pole box is also used as a maternity roost by common pipistrelles. Visual material is also available of bat pole boxes occupied by bats (see 'Visual material' further on in this factsheet).

### Bat box or bat pole box?

When installing bat boxes is not an option, a bat pole box can be chosen. This may be the case, for example, if there are no suitable buildings or trees from which to hang boxes. When placing a bat pole box, it is important that there is sufficient free space around it so that it is easily accessible to bats. If installing boxes is an option, it is better to choose that first (Unitura, 2021).

According to Bij12 (2024), larger pole-mounted boxes could function as long-term temporary provisions under the right conditions. It has also been shown that pole-mounted boxes are occupied at some frequency by both individual common pipistrelles and small groups.

## Formal requirements for provisions

Various institutes set requirements for bat roosts. For which functions/species/types of roosts does the bat pole box meet these requirements?

### Knowledge Document requirements Bij12

Only a Knowledge Document with roost dimensions is available for the common pipistrelle. The following requirements apply; see also p. 67 of the latest Knowledge Document (Bij12, 2024):

Roost/nesting site type	Internal dimension requirements for permanent provision	Complies
Summer roost or mating roost	15 cm wide, 80 cm high   depth 1.5 to 2 cm   access slot 2 cm	Yes*
Maternity roost	Bespoke   depth 2.5 cm   access slot 2.5 cm high	Possible**
Mass hibernation roost	Bespoke   depth 2.5 cm   access slot 2.5 cm high	No

\*According to the Knowledge Document, a passage of 1.5 to 2 cm is optimal for the common pipistrelle, although a serotine or pond bat may also be able to pass through at this size.

\*\*The VMPT1 has layers of different sizes and on all orientations, allowing the bat to choose the one it prefers or the one most suitable for the intended roost type. Several maternity colonies have already been found in the bat pole box. The bat pole box is not bespoke-made.

## NKNB requirements

Species	Roost/nesting site	Internal dimension requirements	Complies
Common pipistrelle	Large summer roost / maternity roost	Surface area: minimum 1.5-2 m <sup>2</sup> Compartment depth: 17-30 mm Access slot: 17-20 mm	Yes*
	Small summer / autumn roost	Surface area: minimum 0.35 m <sup>2</sup> Depth: 17-30 mm Access slot: 17-20 mm	Yes
Brown long-eared bat	Large summer roost and maternity roost	Surface area: minimum 15 m <sup>2</sup> Compartment depth: 17-30 mm Access slot: 17-20 mm	No
	Small summer/autumn roost	Surface area: minimum 0.22 m <sup>2</sup> Compartment depth: 17-30 mm	Yes*
Serotine	Hibernation roost	Compartment depth 25-30 mm Surface area 2.5 m <sup>2</sup> Access slot: 50-100 mm wide, 25-35 mm high	No
	Summer roost	Minimum 25 m <sup>2</sup> Roosting area depth 25-30 mm	No
	Maternity roost	Minimum 250 m <sup>2</sup> Roosting area depth 25-30 mm	No

\*The VMPT1 has four sides with multiple layers, which together meet the surface-area requirement.

## Expected effectiveness

### Definition used here

The expected effectiveness has been determined on the basis of anecdotal evidence.

### Expected effectiveness by function

Species	Roost/nesting site	Functionality	Status
Common pipistrelle	Summer roost and mating roost	++	Very frequently anecdotally proven
	Maternity roost	+	Anecdotally proven
Nathusius' pipistrelle	Summer roost and mating roost	++	Anecdotally proven

In addition to anecdotal evidence, visual material is also available of bat pole boxes occupied by bats (see next page).

## Visual material



Figure 1: A common pipistrelle in the VMPT1 bat pole box.

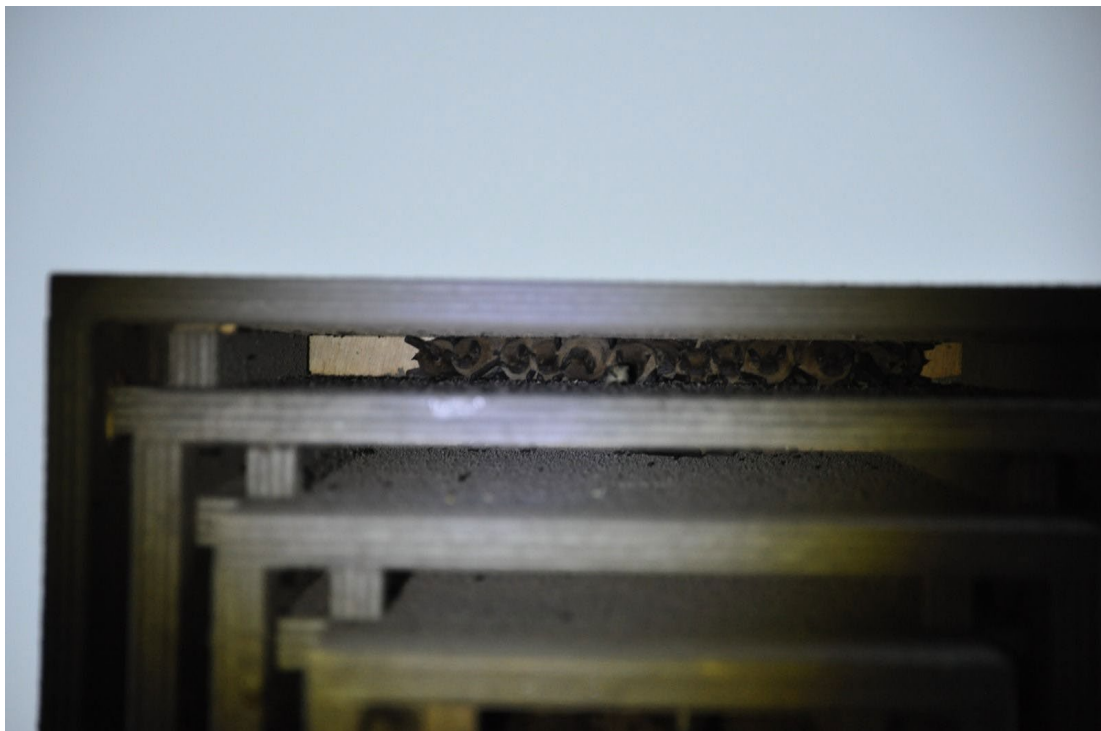


Figure 2: Bats in the VMPT1 bat pole box in a residential area.



A maternity colony of common pipistrelles in VMPT1.

## Sources

Bij12 (2024). Knowledge Document: Common pipistrelle (version 2.0, April 2024). Accessed 11-06-2024 via <https://www.bij12.nl/kennisdocumenten/kennisdocument-gewone-dwergvleermuis/>

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NKNB (n.d.d.). Bat roost in eaves/overhang. Accessed 11-06-2024 via <https://nknb.nl/maatregel/vleermuisverblijf-in-overstek/>

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