

Protocol for evicting bats from buildings and alien trees

Procedure for evicting bats prior to the demolition of buildings or the removal of alien tree clumps:

1. Demolition of buildings/Removal of alien tree clumps NOT to happen during the pupping season – between October and March.
2. Workers to use proper PPE (safety boots, snake gaiters, hard hat, thick leather gloves and safety glasses).
3. At least one month prior to building demolition/alien tree removal, an environmental officer, under the remote guidance of a bat specialist, to inspect specific buildings/alien trees for the presence of bats.
4. Should there be obvious signs of bat utilization in the building/alien trees, an artificial bat roost should be built within 1 km of the building/alien trees. Such artificial roosts can be obtained from <https://ecosolutions.co.za/bat-boxes>.
5. There are several animals the workers may encounter, e.g. birds, bats, snakes, rats, mice, other small and large mammals, scorpions, spiders and insects. The workers need to take care not to harm the animals and not to get harmed by the animals by wearing correct PPE and following the below protocol:
6. The day before the building demolition/alien tree removal process starts:
 - a. Make noises and knock on building walls/tree trunks to cause vibration to alert the animals of your intent, giving them time to potentially flee.
 - b. Remove by hand all soft and loose materials inside buildings (e.g. hay, sacs, loose wood planks or panels and other loose items), or all loose bark of alien trees (so far as this is practicably possible).
 - c. Remove the roof of the building/branches of the trees, allowing the bats 24 hours to escape before the rest of the building is demolished/the tree trunks are felled.
7. Under safe conditions, continue with the building demolition/alien tree removal.