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**WILDLIFE & COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES**

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**BADGER EXCLUSION GATES: INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE**

The oak badger exclusion gates you have purchased are designed to prevent badgers from returning to their sett during a licensed exclusion, subject to satisfactory installation.

The badger gates supplied comprise a sturdy wooden frame made from 2" x 2" (50 x 50mm) green oak, and a solid oak gate flap of 8" x 10" (200 x 250mm), which swings on strong coach-screws. There is a one-way batten fastened to one side of the gate frame. The gates have pointed 'feet' to aid installation.

The gate must be located in the sett entrance sufficiently well to prevent badgers digging around the gate, and holes should be made to locate the gate's 'feet', together with a groove for the bottom of the frame. It is not recommended to locate the 'feet' by hammering the gate, although light taps on the top of the posts will help to seat it securely in place. The batten must be on the sett side of the gate.

**Setting the gate:**

To set the gate for one-way operation, unscrew and remove the fastening screw on the front of the gate frame. Pull the gate flap towards you, reach through the gate and move the batten down across the bottom of the frame. Screw the fastening screw previously removed into the hole provided on the opposite side of the gate frame. Carefully line up the emerging screw on the back of the frame with the threaded hole in the batten, and tighten fully. The gate can now only open outwards, allowing the badgers to leave their sett, but preventing their return (assuming satisfactory installation).

On completion of the sett exclusion, reset the gate for two-way operation, by unscrewing the batten retaining screw, moving the batten to its upright position, and replacing the retaining screw in the upper hole on the opposite side of the gate frame. The gate is now ready for use again.

*Our badger exclusion gates should be re-usable many times, and therefore offer better value than softwood gates, which may not be strong enough for badger sett exclusions. Dimensions quoted are approximate, and due to the nature of the materials used, the gates may suffer some warping during use – this does not usually prevent the gates working, but it is advisable to occasionally check the gate flaps for free movement. Each gate is checked before despatch to ensure that it operates properly. Provided these instructions are followed carefully, the gates should perform well, and be easy to set. Please do not store the gates in hot/dry conditions, as this may cause excessive drying and warping of the timber. If you have any problems with our gates, or suggestions for improvements to their design, we would be pleased to hear from you. Please e-mail us at [settexclusiongates@wildlifeservices.co.uk](mailto:settexclusiongates@wildlifeservices.co.uk).*

*Badger sett exclusions may only be undertaken under licence from the relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Organisation, as badgers and their setts are fully protected by the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, and it is illegal to disturb the badgers, or damage or destroy their setts, without a licence.*

**Wildlife & Countryside Services provide a full ecological consultancy service, and can assist with licensing and mitigations, including badger sett exclusions, as well as supply of badger gates.**

**We can also supply a full range of wildlife survey and mitigation services throughout the UK, as well as newt, badger and deer fencing. Just send us an email to [ecologicalservices@wildlifeservices.co.uk](mailto:ecologicalservices@wildlifeservices.co.uk).**