

1. Secure the Bat Safely

- **Protection:** Always wear **heavy leather gloves** and avoid any direct skin contact with the bat.
- **Containment:** If alive, capture the bat using a coffee can or clear plastic food storage container with a tight-fitting lid. Secure the lid with **tape**.
- **Preservation: Do not damage the head.** The brain must remain intact for the laboratory to perform the necessary tissue testing.

2. Packaging for Transport

- **Double-Bagging:** Place the individual specimen inside **two leak-proof plastic bags** (double-bagged). Each bag must be securely sealed to prevent the leakage of fluids.
- **Rigid Container:** Place the double-bagged specimen into a **rigid-walled container** (like a small cooler or cardboard box) to prevent accidental punctures.
- **Cooling:** Surround the specimen with **cold packs or gel packs**. Avoid using loose ice if possible; if you must use ice, ensure it is also double-bagged to prevent leaks.
- **Crucial Tip: Do not freeze** the bat. Freezing can distort brain tissue and make results inconclusive. Keep it **refrigerated** until transport.