

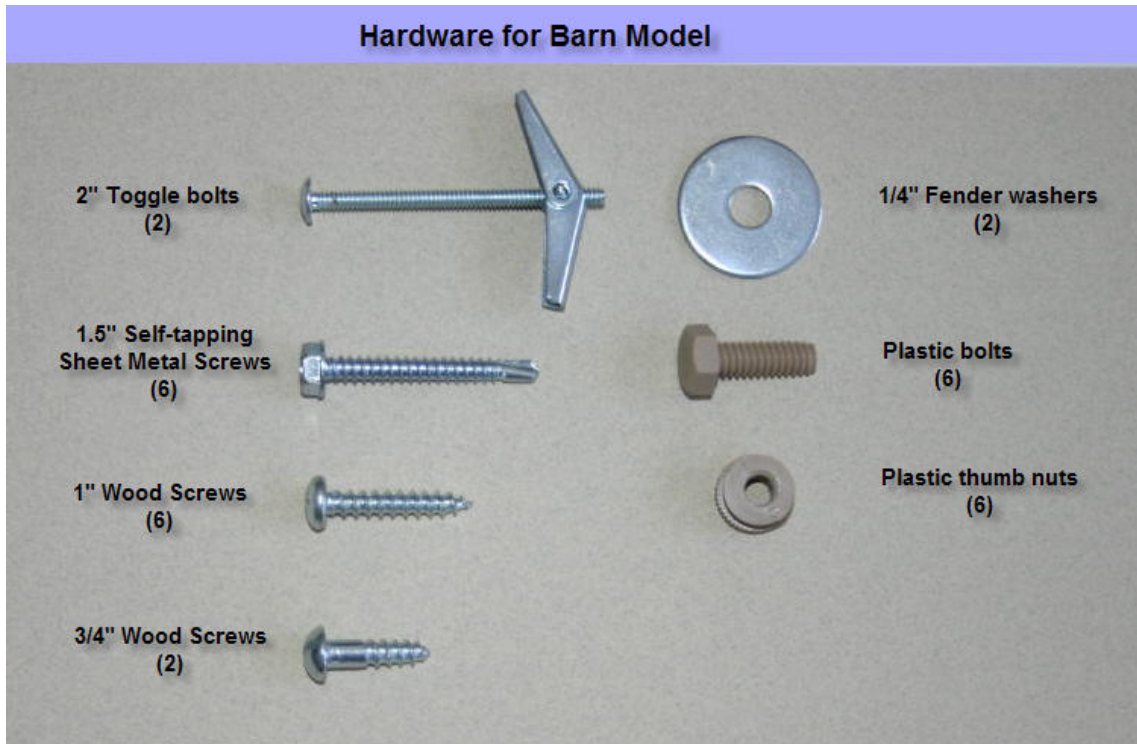
Dear Customer:;

Thank you for purchasing a Barn Owl Box Company product!

Installing the Barn Model

When you first unpack your Barn Model, make sure you have all of the following parts:

- a. Nest box body
- b. Upper half of faceplate
- c. Lower half of faceplate
- d. Galvanized metal mounting bracket
- e. Roll of Emseal expanding foam gasket
- f. 17.5" square paper template
- g. Composite wooden perch
- h. Plexiglas viewing window and rubber shade with three nylon snap rivets
- i. Hardware (see illustration below)



* Note: 2 of the 6 Plastic bolts will be longer. Use these for the middle holes on the front piece.

The Barn Model contains all the hardware you will need for either a Metal or Wooden Barn
Toggle bolts attach mounting plate to barn wall; 1.5" Metal screws attach box flange to *metal* barn wall;
1" wood screws attach box flange to *wood* barn wall; 3/4" wood screws attach perch to landing ledge;
Fender washers go on the toggle bolts; Plastic bolts and nuts hold lid to nest box.

The viewing window consists of an acrylic panel, a white rubber shade, and 3 nylon snap rivets:



If you are missing any parts, please call 1-877-NESTBOX.

Before beginning, please review all installation directions including the Exploded View on page 5.

Tools needed for installation

Caution: When working on ladders and with power tools, use all recommended standard safety precautions.

- a. Drill
 - b. 1/8" metal bit, 3/8" metal bit, Phillips head driver, and 7/16" socket
 - c. Phillips screwdriver
 - d. Jigsaw or sawzall
 - e. Level
 - f. Felt tipped marker
 - g. Tape (any kind)
 - h. Ladder
1. Attach the viewing window assembly to the rear of the box: Remove protective paper from acrylic window. Push snap rivets first through the holes in the rubber shade, the top two holes in the acrylic window, and then through the holes in the rear of the box. Finish by pushing the last rivet through the bottom hole in the acrylic window, then through the hole in the box.
 2. Determine the best placement for the nest box.
 - a. You want to choose, if possible, a side of the barn that faces an open area.
 - b. Height should be 8 feet or higher. The more the daily disturbances in the area, the higher the box should be installed—usually up to 12" is adequate.
 - c. Make sure that the interior of the box, 26" deep, has clearance inside the barn.
 3. On either the exterior or the interior of the barn, tape the 17.5" paper template at the determined height. Use level to ensure that the template is level, and mark the square opening to be cut.
 4. Following your barn manufacturers recommendations for cutting your barn wall, cut out the square opening.
 5. Back on the ground, unpack the Emseal expanding gasket (100D) and cut two 21" and two 19" lengths.
 6. From the back of the box (so that the threaded ends stick out away from the barn) thread the six plastic screws through the six predrilled holes in the flange (**100A**) of the box.
 7. Remove the backing from the expanding gasket, and press the sticky side of the gasket around the inside perimeter of the flange (**100A**) that runs around the open end of the nest box; (run the

gasket tape over the plastic bolt heads). *Note: Gasket goes on the surface of the flange that will butt up against barn wall. One layer of Emseal is enough to seal up to 1" deep gaps created by reinforcing ridges in the barn wall.*

8. Attach perch: Position the wooden perch with predrilled holes face-down to line up with predrilled holes in plastic landing ledge. Get the two $\frac{3}{4}$ " wood screws started into the wood by reaching into the hollow of the landing ledge to turn them. Once started, insert Phillips screw driver into the larger holes on the bottom of the landing ledge, and turn screws until tight.
9. On the ladder, insert the nest box into the 17.5" opening, and press until it is snug against the barn wall.
10. Taking into account the positioning of the reinforcing ridges on the barn wall, mark four holes on the flange and, using the 1/8" drill, drill through the flange and through the barn wall.
11. *If installing in metal barn:* use the 7/16" socket on the drill to drive the six self tapping metal screws into the side of the barn until the flange is pulled tight, and the gasket is compressed so that the seal is weather tight. (The gasket will expand over time, filling in the gaps.) Keep the pressure on the screws uniform.
12. *If installing in wooden barn:* use the Phillips head driver to drive the six 1" wood screws into the barn wall.
13. Place approximately two inches of hardwood mulch in the bottom of the box.
14. Place the lower half of the lid with its four predrilled holes over the two lower and two middle plastic bolts, and thread thumb-nuts on only the lower two bolts until hand-tight.
15. Place the upper half of the lid over the two upper and two middle bolts and thread on the remaining four thumb nuts until hand tight. The middle nuts may need a little pressure to thread.
16. On the interior of the barn, push the nest box up until it is reasonably level and square in the wall. Maintaining the pressure on the box, hold the mounting bracket against the bottom of the nest box and mark the position of the two holes in the bracket on the barn wall.
17. Drill two $\frac{3}{8}$ " holes in the barn wall.
18. Place a fender washer over each bolt.
19. Push the threaded ends of the toggle bolts through the two holes in the smaller flange of the mounting bracket and rethread the wings onto the bolts.
20. Hold the mounting bracket so the holes in it line up with the holes you have drilled in the barn, and holding the wings back on first one toggle, then the other, push the wings through the $\frac{3}{8}$ " holes in the barn wall.
21. Pulling back on the mounting bracket to create pressure on the toggle wings, tighten the toggle bolts until they pull the bracket snug. Tighten well.

You are now ready for prospective tenants!

Maintenance of the Barn Owl Box

Because the Barn Owl Box is made of molded plastic, it never needs painted or weatherproofed.

Although barn owls never clean their own nesting sites, it does not hurt to throw out their old mulch and replace it every year or two. Wait until after breeding season to do this, and check to see that your birds are not raising a second clutch. *Note: Always use a surgical mask and gloves when cleaning out a bird nest.*

Observing your birds

Barn owls are naturally attracted to dark cavities, and the dark entrance hole is all the advertising they need to become interested. Either the male or female will first inspect the site. Sometimes they will begin using the box as a roost, sleeping in it during the day, and hunting in the local area. Once they begin using the box as a breeding site, they will spend more and more time in it.

Sooner or later, you are going to wonder whether owls are residing in your box. If you have not actually seen or heard them, it does not mean they are not there! Placing a ladder behind the box and carefully lifting the rubber shade and peering in through the viewing window with a flashlight should not disturb them too much. But remember that the owls can be caused to abandon the nest, so keep such inspections to a minimum until you are sure they have set up house and have young. Once the young are born (approximately 35 days after the eggs are laid) the pair should remain faithful to the nest and observations can be made more frequently. Also, never peer in through the open entrance! Barn owls are fierce nest protectors and have powerful talons.

You can also observe your owls at dusk and dawn (two favorite hunting times) by positioning yourself within view of the flight path to the box. Watching a barn owl flapping slowly over a field in search of prey is a beautiful sight. And you should be able to hear them call as well. While raising young they may hunt during broad daylight.

For any further information or if you have any questions, do not hesitate to go to our website at www.barnowlbox.com, email us at info@barnowlbox.com, or call 1-877-NESTBOX. We will be happy to help you.

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