

HOMEOWNER CHECK LIST TO DETER WILDLIFE

The following checklist is to help you keep wildlife off your property. If you can check off every item on this list, it is likely your wildlife issue can be resolved. Trapping does not work because as long as you have a nesting and food source, wildlife will return.

1. _____ **KEEP GARBAGE CANS INSIDE OR IN GARAGE IF POSSIBLE:** Do not put out any garbage cans until **THE MORNING OF COLLECTION**. This is the number one attraction for wildlife. Even if they have not been able to get into the cans, the smell attracts them. Find secure cans, put ALL garbage in bags with twist ties before placing in cans. Then purchase bungee cords to properly secure. Spray trash cans weekly inside and outside with Ammonia to eliminate any food odor.
2. _____ **VENTS & FANS:** All vents and fans should be covered from the inside with hardware cloth, wire mesh NOT CHICKEN WIRE. Make sure chimneys have animal proof caps that are in good repair. Make sure all rotten roof wood is replaced asap. And it might be there, but anywhere where pipes enter the crawl space should be tightly sealed, no gaps for any animal to squeeze through. Crawl space doors should be in good repair and tight fitting after you make sure no animals have gotten under your house.
3. _____ **PURCHASE GRUB KILLER & SKUNK REPELLANT:** Purchase repellent and follow directions. Grubs being dug up in lawns is easily fixed with grub killer.
4. _____ **CLEAN OUTDOOR GRILLS:** If you have an outdoor grill, you must clean it completely after use and put away if possible. There should be no scent to attract wildlife.
5. _____ **CLEAN UP YARD:** If you have trees or bushes that harvest fruits, berries or nuts, check your yard often in search of those that have fallen on the ground and remove them. Remove all water sources that skunks can easily access as well.
6. _____ **CLOSE UP ANY HOLES:** All decks, sheds and porches are nesting areas for wildlife. They should be completely sealed with concrete or bricks below the ground 8 inches as wildlife will dig under any structure not on concrete.
7. _____ **CLEAN GUTTERS:** Remove leaves and debris from roof and gutters to avoid rodents. Skunks eat mice just like cats so where there are mice, there are often skunks!
8. _____ **CLOSE GARAGE AND SHED DOORS:** You do not want to leave any garage or shed doors open. If you have anything living under, put **Vicks Vapor rub** on paper plates and slide under.
9. _____ **AUTOMATED SPRINKLERS:** Automated Sprinklers also known as the scarecrow sprinklers are also a common way to deter skunks. The automated sprinklers have motion sensors that come on and squirt the skunk or any other animal that comes within so many feet of it. The skunk then associates this frightening experience with your yard, and decides to never return.
10. _____ **TRIM ALL TREE BRANCHES NEAR DECKS:** To keep wildlife off your decks and roof you should make sure all tree branches are cut so there is no access _____|