

NUISANCE WILDLIFE AND YOU



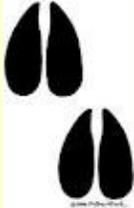
While many people enjoy and appreciate wildlife, not everyone wishes to have wildlife in or near their home. Whether it's a skunk rummaging through your trash cans, stinkbugs invading your home, or deer eating your expensive flowers and vegetable gardens; not all wildlife activities are welcome.

Generally, to deter wildlife from entering your home or property, you should focus on two things:

1. preventing access into your house (chimneys, attic vents, holes in foundation/siding/roof, cracks around windows & doors, etc) and
2. eliminating food sources that might attract wildlife (open trash cans, pet food left outside, bird feeders too close to house, etc).

Here are some tips more specific for common nuisance species:

<p><u>Raccoons</u> and <u>Squirrels</u></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cap/Close chimneys, roof vents, and attic vents • Restrict access to roof (i.e cut tree limbs that hang over roof) • Eliminate food sources near house (pet food, open trash cans, bird feeders, etc) • Close dog doors at night
<p><u>Opossums</u> and <u>Skunks</u></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cap/Close chimneys, roof vents, and attic vents • Prevent access to crawl spaces • Eliminate food sources (pet food, open trash cans, etc) • Close dog doors at night
<p><u>Rodents</u> (mice & rats)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate food sources (pet food, open trash cans, etc) • Eliminate entry into house (seal gaps in closed door ways & windows, seal holes in foundation & siding, etc) • Move piles of debris & firewood that may serve as nesting habitat in yard away from house
<p><u>Bats</u></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cap/Close chimneys, roof vents, and attic vents to prevent roosting activity • Fasten any loose siding

<p><u>Deer</u></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build an 8ft fence around vegetable gardens • Use protective netting around ornamental plants • Use deer resistant plants for landscaping • Build an 8ft fence around the perimeter of your yard
<p><u>Birds</u></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cap/Close chimneys, roof vents, and attic vents • Move bird feeders farther away from house
<p><u>Snakes</u></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seal holes and cracks in/ around foundation, water pipes, and electric wiring into house • Remove food sources and nesting habitat for prey species such as rodents (see <u>Rodents</u> section above)
<p><u>Mosquitoes</u></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate sources of standing water (water in old tires, puddles in tarps, empty buckets, clogged gutters, etc) • Seal windows, doors, and window-unit air conditioners • Add mosquito larvae feeding fish in garden ponds

<p><u>Spiders</u></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seal entryways into house (windows, doors, holes/cracks in foundation, etc) • Remove spider webs when first noticed
<p><u>Stinkbugs</u></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seal entryways into house (windows, doors, holes/cracks in foundation, air conditioning units, etc)

The Maryland-National Capital Park
and Planning Commission
Department of Parks and Recreation
Prince George's County
Natural and Historical Resources Division

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As previously mentioned, you can greatly reduce nuisance wildlife issues by 1.) preventing access into your house and 2.) eliminating food sources that attract wildlife. There are several local companies who specialize in wildlife-related problems that can be found in simple internet searches.

For more information, please contact the Park Ranger Unit at:

M-NCPPC Park Ranger Office
14955 Pennsylvania Ave
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
301-627-7755
TTY 301-699-2544
www.pgparcs.com



Some quick, easy tips to help prevent nuisance wildlife from entering and damaging your home and property

