



# Baxter Pest Control Co., Inc.

www.BaxterPestControl.com

## Squirrel Control

**Eastern gray squirrels** have a litter of two to three young in spring. Another litter is born in late summer. The young are weaned at 50 days but those in the second litter stay with the female over the winter. Acorns and other nuts are the main food of gray squirrels. Eastern gray squirrels nest in tree cavities or leaf nests in mature trees.

Squirrel Droppings



Actual size

### Controlling Damage

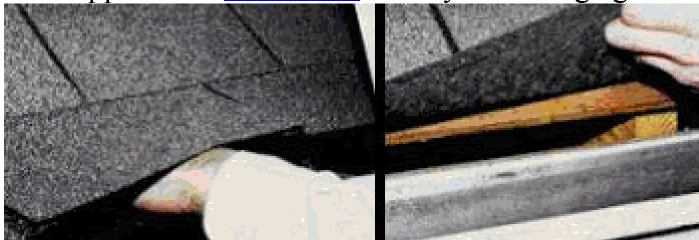
A survey of the National Pest Control Association voted the tree squirrel as the number one nuisance animal in the United States. Tree squirrels can cause a variety of problems, including damage to trees, flowers, lawns, gardens, vehicles and homes. They eat acorns, nuts, fruit or vegetables in home gardens and become a nuisance at bird feeders. Squirrels can cause extensive damage to attic insulation or walls and gnaw on electrical wires in homes and vehicles, creating a fire hazard.

Fox and gray squirrels normally crush the shells of nuts to enter them. Flying squirrels usually cut a smooth circular or oval opening in the shell wall. On heavy shells of larger nuts, flying squirrels will make a second opening or remove an entire end.



**Also gnawed holes,** leaves, twigs, shells, hulls, pits or nesting materials inside an attic.

Squirrels can climb **vertical brick** or masonry walls that have a roughened surface. They can enter through vents, chimneys, broken windows, knotholes and **construction gaps** under eaves or gables. Squirrels most often enter attics and spaces between walls and floors. To reduce squirrel problems in buildings, limit their access by closing all openings . Even holes that are too small for squirrels should be closed. Metal flashing, hail screen, and copper wool [STUF-FIT](#) usually discourage gnawing.





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## Modifying the habitat

Squirrels can be prevented from climbing trees and gaining access to roofs by trimming limbs 8 feet away from buildings. Overhanging limbs may require a greater amount of trimming.

## Trapping squirrels

Cage squirrel traps should be 18 to 24 inches long with a least 5 x 5 inch door. Place traps outside and very near the squirrel's entry hole. If placed on a roof, traps should be securely fastened and protected from extremes of heat or cold by a cover that is not accessible to the squirrel as it reaches through the cage . Bait the trap with corn, peanut butter, or whole pecans in shell.

**Simply excluding squirrels will not work.** You must relocate all of the squirrels that committed the crime. Otherwise, they will break back in. Make sure that all squirrels are outside the building before making it squirrel proof by closing all the openings.

## Squirrels and disease

Squirrels are susceptible to parasites, including ticks, fleas, bot flies and mange mites. The latter cause a disease called sarcoptic mange that produces scabs and severe hair loss. The scabs become thick and wrinkled, giving the squirrel a startling appearance. The disease can cause death by exposure. Sarcoptic mange mites typically are species-specific so mange does not ordinarily spread from squirrels to people or pets. Report to authorities any squirrel that acts extremely aggressive or is convulsive.

Contact Baxter Pest Control for today at (215) 844-6646, if you have a squirrel problem.