

Living with Wildlife – Prevention Tips



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The inevitable result of population growth is a decrease in natural habitat. In turn wildlife has few options other than to adapt and move closer to people to find the resources they need to survive, meaning they often end up on our properties. Learning to co-exist with wildlife is easy if you prevent conflicts before they occur. Taking a little time now will help avoid major headaches later.

Animals gain entry into attics through soffits, fascia, roof vents and the intersecting point where two roofs meet. Inspect the roof and secure weak spots with 16 – 19 gauge welded wire mesh (1" x 1" or ½" x ½" if you have red squirrels in the area). This material can be purchased at most building

supply stores. After mid October is the safest time to do roof repairs as most babies will have moved out, but be mindful that animals can also move in for the winter. Before doing repairs, be confident that no animals are in the attic. If you suspect there is an animal in the attic, consult our web page entitled "I Hear An Animal In My Attic".

Squirrels and birds may move into chimneys to escape bad weather. Even though they can easily get in they often are not able to get back out. A cap and spark arrester screen on your chimney will prevent this. A cap alone is not sufficient as animals can still fit underneath. A chimney company should be able to install this or a screen can be fashioned using the 1" x 1" welded wire mesh.

Animals can fall and get stuck in window wells so it is good to get a prop-

er window well cover or create your own using the 1" x 1" welded wire mesh.

Garbage and compost are viable food sources for many animals. To avoid this, make sure your garbage is securely stored and if possible keep bins in a shed or garage until the morning of pick up. Also, remember that pet food and birdseed can attract animals to your property.

It is important when doing animal proofing to consider hiring a general contractor to do the roof work if you are not comfortable or don't have the proper equipment to do the job!

This will be our last column as we are happy to say that wild animals have the good sense to retire for the winter. We hope to return next spring in bringing you more information on the interesting animals we share our spaces with.

Submitted Photo