



TRAPPING GUIDE

SQUIRRELS

Squirrels are small rodents with bushy tails and a penchant for climbing, gnawing, and hoarding.

Know your target:

Squirrels are small, quick, agile climbers. They prefer to be out in the open, but nest in trees or other high places. You may find them seeking shelter in attic spaces or vents of your home or outbuildings.

Choose your trap:

Traps can have a single door or a double door.

Choose your bait:

Choose a bait that the squirrels cannot steal from the trap, and remove other food sources before placing the trap. Place the bait in the trap so that the squirrel must engage the trigger.

- ☐ Peanut butter, unshelled peanuts or walnuts, or field corn on the cob.
- ☐ Grains or seeds, especially sunflower seeds.
- ☐ Apples or oranges.
- ☐ Bread or oatmeal.

Setting the trap:

Avoid placing traps near low bushes and shrubs. Squirrels prefer to be out in the open.

- ☐ Place the trap on a flat surface along the squirrel's travel path. Consider some of these options:
 - Along a wall in the attic, shed, or crawl space that is affected.

- In front of an entry way.
 - At the base of a tree.
 - Along a fence line nearby a bird feeder.
 - A spot on the roof top accessible by tree and power lines.
- ☐ Check the traps often, two to three times per day.

Releasing your catch:

It is unethical to leave an animal in a trap for an extended period without food or water. Check traps often and release the animal as soon as possible.

- ☐ Wear thick leather gloves to prevent bites from an animal that could transmit disease.
- ☐ Relocate the squirrel several miles from the location where they were caught. Be sure to check local rules and guidelines from your state game commission before releasing the animal.
- ☐ To keep the move peaceful, approach the trap slowly, use a gentle voice, and place a towel over the cage.
- ☐ It is best to move the squirrel at night to limit the likelihood of them returning.

Prevent their return:

- ☐ Trim tree branches around your home.
- ☐ Cover power lines with plastic tubing.
- ☐ Install a chimney cap and repair broken vents, screens, and holes in the home's exterior.
- ☐ Apply squirrel repellents. Repellents that contain capsaicin repel squirrels by taste.