

## SKUNK PREVENTION TIPS

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Skunks are generally easy-going animals and they help in eliminating common insect and rodent pests. In spite of this, the matter of their notorious defensive spray means that most homeowners loathe having skunks around. They also destroy lawns and gardens by digging cone-shaped holes as they search for grubs to eat.

- Keep pet food indoors and secure garbage cans with lids. Food remains the greatest pull for wandering wildlife.
- Remove fruit that has fallen from your trees, especially those that produce nuts, berries, crabapples, or other fruits. Pick them as soon as they ripen and rake your yard as often as necessary.
- Inspect your property and block all holes and burrows that are potential hideouts for the skunk. Block all accessible porches, sheds, decks, and under elevated houses and foundations. Be sure to remove brush piles; use gravel, fencing, or plywood to seal all holes and potential entries.
- Apply a topical application to your lawn grass to eliminate food sources for the skunk, like grubs.
- Skunks don't usually make their own shelter but use dens that have been abandoned by other wildlife. Inspect your property and block all holes and burrows.
- Install bright lights in your yard. This will discourage the skunk as it is nocturnal by nature, but certainly is not a foolproof way to keep away skunks.
- Motion activated sprinklers: these are placed out in the yard and working with a motion sensor, would spray any animal that passes with water. This is meant to startle them into running away.

The only way to really keep the skunk out of your property is to remove all traces of food and to block all possible entry points as well as shelter options for the skunk.

Ammonia – it is widely believed to repel most wildlife due to its pungent smell. The mode of application involves placing old rags dipped in ammonia under your deck or porch, or anywhere that skunk activity has been observed. Ammonia is particularly distressing to the eyes and nose of wildlife and has a better chance at being effective when applied in an enclosed space.

Mothballs –: Mothballs are the world's cure for almost everything pest animal related. Not only will moth balls supposedly get rid of rats, they will keep out mice, drive squirrels away, stop snakes, turn around armadillos, and chase off raccoons. Now that you know everything these little, toxic balls do, you might begin to see how silly it is to think they will work all the time for everything. The only thing moth balls are good for is killing moth larvae. This is what the product was designed and approved to do. There are no other useful applications for it. It is cheap enough to try, but you need to keep in mind the little white balls are made of a known carcinogen. This means they cause cancer in lab rats and probably in people. If that doesn't turn you away from using them, consider the fact that the toxic level of moth ball fumes for a skunk is also the toxic level for a human. If you're trying to use moth balls outside, don't bother. The fumes will be lost on the winds. The outdoors is too large for mothballs to be in any way effective.