



In need of some assistance with a squirrel infestation?

Call us today

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SQUIRRELS: Pest Advice



What do squirrels look like?

Surprisingly, squirrels are actually rodents and in the UK, there are two main species. Despite its name, the colouring of the native red squirrel includes chestnut, light brown and even black! With big fluffy tails, distinctive ear tufts and smaller frames, red squirrels are markedly different from their grey-coloured cousins. An invasive species, grey squirrels have light grey fur with touches of russet-brown, tuftless ears and are larger than their red counterparts. Both have paws complete with claws and a pair of sharp incisor teeth.

Where do squirrels live?

Both red and grey squirrels tend to live in sparsely populated forested regions, parks and woodlands, although they have been known to nest inside attics, basements and garages!

What do squirrels eat?

Arguably adorable, squirrels are omnivores, meaning that as well as the expected diet of nuts, seeds, fruit and fungi, squirrels will also happily munch on eggs, small insects, small animals and even young snakes! Part of their feeding habits involve hiding food for cold months, so that they have food when supplies are scarce during the winter.



DID YOU KNOW?

Squirrels cause £6-10 million worth of damage to British forestry every year!

DID YOU KNOW?

Red squirrels are extremely susceptible to the Squirrelpox virus, which is lethal, but grey squirrels are completely unaffected.

Are squirrels bad for my health?

Deceptively cute, grey squirrels can be a menace! Even with tree bark to gnaw, squirrels can still turn their attention to the woodwork in your home, nibbling at beams and joinery in your attic or basement. Some determined squirrels even chew through wire insulation, stripping the protective covering and significantly increasing the risk of fire.

Also, as rodents, squirrels may carry and transmit a handful of diseases, such as Lyme disease, leptospirosis and salmonella. They can also act as host for other pests, such as ticks.

What are the signs of infestation?

If a squirrel is brave enough to nest inside your home, it's usually brave enough to make an appearance, even if humans are present, making a squirrel infestation in your home easy to spot. You might see squirrels coming in and out of your attic or basement, as they leave their nest frequently to feed, or spy gnaw marks in woodwork. You may also see squirrel droppings in and around your property, as well as detect the distinct smell of urine.

How can I prevent an infestation?

To deter squirrels from setting a paw inside your property, remove all food sources – this may include bird feeders, which are often filled with squirrel's favourites, such as seeds and nuts. Seal up any holes, cracks or gaps in your basements, attics and garages with wire mesh and if you locate a nest, simply wait for

the squirrel to leave and then block the entrance. Cut back any branches near your home, and move cables and lines where possible.

How to get rid of squirrels

Red squirrels are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, making it a criminal offence to trap, harm or kill them. Grey squirrels, however, are considered pests due to their damaging impact on the UK's native wildlife, especially the red squirrel.

DIY squirrel control is not recommended, as any trapped squirrels must, by law, not be released back into the wild and must be killed humanely. This can be very distressing, and is why a squirrel infestation is best tackled by a pest professional. A pest controller has the experience, expertise and skills to assess and advise the best course of action, which will usually be proofing in the first instance, with lethal control of squirrels a last resort.

