

# Things You Should Know About Skunks



Skunks are renowned for the horrible smell they emit when injured, frightened or mating. The odour can remain on pets and in ventilation systems for weeks or months. But these animals can also cause significant damage to buildings and landscaping.



## Property Damage

Skunks will burrow out dens under any structure without a foundation, such as porches, decks, or sheds. They are nocturnal (i.e. active at night), and will chew or burrow through wood and siding.

**FACT: Skunks tend to burrow out their dens, which can cause weaknesses in porches, decks, sheds and foundations.**

A large portion of a skunk's diet is made up of insects, grubs and garbage.

**FACT: They will often dig up lawns and gardens to find their food.**

The noxious chemical emitted by skunks is very pervasive.

**FACT: The smell from skunk spray can remain on skin and pet hair for days, weeks and even months. It often enters the ventilation system and will spread throughout the building very quickly.**

## Health Risks

The number of cases of rabies in skunks exceeds that in raccoons or foxes. Skunks have been found with rabies throughout Canada.

**FACT: Rabies-infected skunks cannot often be distinguished from healthy ones. Rabies is transmitted through saliva from the infected skunk to humans and pets, often through a bite.**

Skunk spray is extremely difficult to remove from clothing, skin and hair. It can remain strong for long periods of time, affecting everyone who comes into contact with it.

**FACT: Skunk spray can be highly noxious, causing nausea and vomiting. It also contains sulphuric acid, which can cause temporary blindness in pets and humans.**

## How to Find Them

Signs of digging and burrowing are the most common way to locate a skunk den. Damage to lawns and gardens may also be evident.

**FACT: Skunks are social animals and several families may congregate in a single den site. There are typically 4-6 babies (kits) in a litter.**

## How to Remove Them

Simply patching the entry hole does not work. They will dig a new opening to regain entry or find their young.

**FACT: The most effective method is to remove all the skunks and completely seal the entire porch, shed or foundation from further entry by digging a trench and installing screening.**

Killing or capturing the adult likely won't solve the problem, since the babies may still be hiding in an inaccessible area under the building.

**FACT: Skunk dens are often hard to access and a number of extraction techniques may be required.**



**Toll Free 1-877-222-9453**  
[www.humanewildlifecontrol.com](http://www.humanewildlifecontrol.com)



# Services Provided by Humane Wildlife Control

## *Location & Assessment*

Our trained technicians will locate the skunk entry points and describe or show them to you.

We will attempt to locate all the skunks and determine the stage in the breeding cycle, assessing the best method to get them out.

## *Effective Removal*

In some cases, we will gently prod the skunks to come out of their den.

If babies are present, our technicians will use various techniques (a one-way door or heated baby box) to reunite them with their mother and allow her to relocate her babies safely to one of 5-6 alternate den sites.

## *Guaranteed Exclusion*

Our wildlife technicians will seal all the potential openings under your building or structure with heavy gauge wire screening dug into the ground. We will also deodorize the area to deter other skunks from entering.

***All materials used to exclude skunks  
are of the highest quality and  
are guaranteed for at least three years.***

## *Why the Humane Approach is Better*

Our wildlife technicians are specially trained to remove skunks and prevent undue stress or injury to the animals. This is also a practical and economical approach. The inhumane killing, trapping or relocation of skunks is illegal. Removing mother skunks leaves the babies to die under your building. The removal of carcasses is time consuming, costly and poses a health risk. Our focus on education and prevention makes us a leader in the wildlife control industry.



**Baby skunks (kits)  
emerging from den**



**Mother relocating  
babies**



**Damage from skunk  
burrowing**



**Trench and screening  
prevents re-entry**



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