

REMEDIES TO GET RID OF RACCOONS



Facts:

- Raccoon populations can get quite large in urban areas, owing to hunting and trapping restrictions, few predators, and human-supplied food from trash cans.
- Raccoons will eat almost anything, fish, insects, slugs, grubs, dead animals, birds, fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, etc. Around humans, raccoons often eat garbage.
- Female raccoons produce litters between 1 and 7 offspring and up to 2 litters.
- Raccoon droppings may carry parasites, worms, viruses, and bacteria that can be fatal to humans. Do not handle or smell raccoon dropping and wash your hands if you touch any. In some cases, once deposited, the eggs develop into the infectious form in 2-4 weeks and can survive in the soil for several years.
- Raccoons may carry disease that can be spread to people (Zoonosis) and pets, including raccoon roundworm (Baylisascaris), leptospirosis, salmonella, rabies, tetanus, and many others.
- Raccoons can excrete roundworm eggs through their droppings. These eggs are very light and can become airborne. Humans can easily inhale these eggs and become infected.
- Leptospira is the bacteria that causes leptospirosis, and is carried in the urine of raccoons. Keep raccoons out of your pool.

Close the Entries

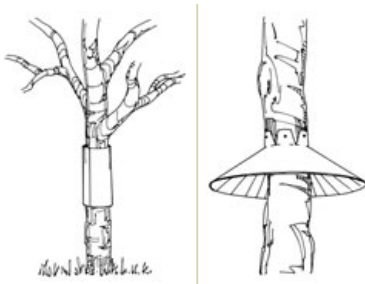
Seal all the access points with wooden planks, wired cloth or good quality net, to prevent the entry of raccoons in your home. You can also use newspaper for this purpose. Put multiple layers of newspaper in the compressed form in the crevices and holes.

Cover the Water Sources (Pools)

It is important to keep raccoons out of your pool and watch for raccoon feces (poop) in and around your pool. Raccoons love to live near and utilize water bodies, so take care that you **cover swimming pool at night**. Put up a wired mesh in the pond so that they do not enter there.

Raccoon Guards

A raccoon guard can be secured around trees, pipes, posts, and other structures to keep raccoons from climbing.



Bungee Cords

Secure garbage containers with a bungee cord through the handles and across the lid.

Never leave your trash can exposed by leaving the lid off! That is an invitation for foraging.

For a lid that doesn't lock in place, attach plastic hose pipe or tubing all around the edge of the lid so that it creates a seal when fitted onto the bin. Cut a piece of rubber tubing or hose pipe along one side and slip it over the rim of your trash can. This will create a tight seal for the lid and make it difficult for raccoons to pry off.



Cinder Blocks

Put cinder blocks, a weight, or a heavy rock on the lids of the trash bins to keep the raccoons away.

Cover Bird Baths

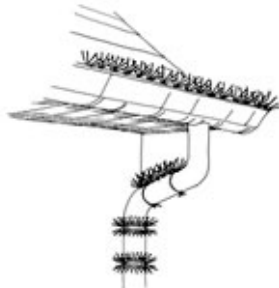
I suggest purchasing from a local nursery or searching on many websites for a heavy duty planter saucer available in a variety of colors and sizes. This Universal Round Saucer by Crescent Garden is the cover/lid used for the bird bath. Available at many nurseries and gardening centers such as Wannemaker's Home and Garden, Downers Grove, IL.



Clean Barbecue grills and grease traps thoroughly following each use.

Plastic Bird Spikes

Commercially available metal or plastic spikes can help keep raccoons off of buildings. Available at www.Menards.com.



Pool Ladders

Place plastic spikes on the steps of the pool ladder. Plastic Bird Spikes available at www.Menards.com.

Clean Trash Cans Periodically

It is important to clean your trash cans and disinfect them regularly to remove lingering odors and trash residue. Use ammonia when cleaning out your trash cans, as raccoons find the scent of ammonia to be very unpleasant.

Fruit Trees

Regularly pick up fallen fruit to prevent attracting raccoons. Install tree guards.

Bird Feeders

Regularly pick up birdseed at the end of the day to prevent attracting raccoons.

Keep Pets Indoors at Night

If cornered, raccoons and coyotes may attack dogs and cats. Bite wounds from raccoons can result in fractures and disease transmission.

Feed Dogs and Cats Indoors

If you must feed your pets outside, do so in late morning or at midday, and pick up food, water bowls, leftovers, and spilled food well before dark every day.

Cut Overhanging Branches near Homes and Garages

Be respectful of your neighbor's property and cut overgrowth branches that are on their property.

Maintain property to limit overgrown plants and bushes to limit hiding areas.

Grubs and Earthworms

Keep an eye on nearby lawns. If a neighbor has a grub problem, beetles will likely migrate towards your grass. Get rid of grubs, and the critters will stop digging.

Have your grubs tested. Test results that Evergreen Park has Masked Chafer Beetle Grubs. Masked Chafers are considered to be "highly destructive pests." A natural grub control solution is with Nematodes. **Contact Biologic Co., Will Hill, PA, 717-349-2789, www.biologicco.com.**

Maintain healthy grass by fertilizing in the spring and fall and watering during periods of drought.

Keep Your Yard Clean

Sec 10-7 Maintenance of alleys and easement areas; storage of garbage containers, burners.

It shall be the **responsibility of the appropriate property owner or resident to maintain the alley or easement** area free and clear of all refuse, manure, discarded building material, logs or debris. Garbage and refuse containers used for alley collection shall be stored at all times at the property line.

Sec 14-9 Evergreen Park Village Ordinance: Junk and rodents, unsightly yard, etc. (Code 1965, 19-43)

...The **storing or accumulation of any condition** which may or can become breeding grounds or harborage for or attraction to insects, rodents, or other possible disease-carrying animals on any property or lot within the village is prohibited.

Sec 14-10 Evergreen Park Village Ordinance: Weeds. (Code 1965, 19-104)

- (1) Allow or maintain on such lot or part thereof any growth of weeds (except noxious weeds) to a height of over eight (8) inches; and
- (2) The growth of noxious weeds, as defined in section 2(5) of the Illinois Noxious Weed Law [505 ILCS 100/2(5)], to any height.
 - (b) It shall be the duty of every owner to cut all noxious weeds at his own expense. If such owner refuses or neglects to cut them, the village may provide for the cutting of them, collect the reasonable cost thereof from the owner, and file a lien as provided for in section 11-20-7 of the Illinois Municipal Code [65 ILCS 5/11-20-71].

Cayenne Pepper Solution

Make a solution by boiling cayenne pepper (1 cup) and 4-5 Habanero chilies in water. Allow it to cool and spray it around the main entries or holes from where the raccoons might come inside. You can also apply a coating of the solution made of cayenne pepper and water outside the garbage can.

Cucumber

Plant cucumber in your garden and adjacent to fencing as these critters can't tolerate the smell of cucumbers.

Garlic

Garlic acts as an effective raccoon repellent home remedy. Crush garlic and chili powder together and spread it around the boundaries of your attic. You may even sprinkle it around the garden randomly near the crops. They will get irritated by the smell of garlic and leave your garden.

Shouting, Radio, Motion-Activated Lights or Sprinklers

This is usually temporary, short-term solution for deterrence (not complete prevention/elimination). A raccoon may run away the first night, walk away the second night. The animal will return as long as there is a food and/or water source.

Ammonia

Ammonia smells like urine to a raccoon, making it highly offensive to them. Raccoons can't bear the smell of ammonia and would leave the place immediately.

Dip 5-6 tennis balls (as they will soak up ammonia well) and throw them at the place where you suspect them to live.

You can also put a small dish of ammonia near garbage container to avert raccoons.

Alternatively, place ammonia-soaked cloths inside the trash can, where the potency lasts longer without being exposed to the air. You can also spray other areas where raccoons seem to congregate, to discourage them from entering your yard in the first place.

I recommend purchasing a Hudson brand sprayer, fill with Ammonia, and use daily around trash cans. Ammonia dissipates in the air quickly and will need to be reapplied daily. Sprayer is available at Menards, Ace, Lowe's, and other locations.



Do Not

- Do not use harmful chemicals/poisons to kill raccoons as they might be banned in your country or could negatively affect other more desirable wildlife.
- Check the local laws before using the remedies to trap and kill the raccoons.
- The Illinois law does not allow trapping and relocating of raccoons to any public place (i.e. forest preserves, parks, etc.). If desired, to prevent euthanasia, a raccoon can be trapped and brought to a licensed veterinarian willing to certify the animal is disease free (fee usually associated with this). Raccoons may transmit diseases to rural populations that they have picked up from urban pets. If raccoons are relocated to a new area, they may get into fights, oftentimes to death, with resident raccoons for limited food, shelter, water, or nesting sites. It isn't fair to the animals already living there to release another competitor into their home range.
- Raccoons typically try to return to their original territory.
- **Moving raccoons will not solve the original problem because other raccoons will replace them and cause similar conflicts. It is more effective to make the site less attractive to raccoons than it is to routinely trap them.**

Educate your Children

- Raccoons may be aggressive, especially when they have offspring. Make yourself appear larger by standing up, shouting, and waving your arms.
- Throw stones in their general direction (do not intentionally hit) or use a watering hose.
- Teach children by shouting "Go away raccoon!" to inform nearby adults of the raccoon's presence.

Product Recommendations: Tomahawk Live Trap, www.livetrapping.com, 800-272-8727, Hazelhurst, WI.

I highly recommend traps with One Trap Door and Rear Access Door.

Internet Resources:

Living with Wildlife in Illinois

http://web.extension.illinois.edu/wildlife/directory_show.cfm?species=raccoon

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/residential/animals/raccoons-and-pools.html>

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/raccoons.html>

King County Diseases from raccoons and other wildlife

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/zoonotic/facts-resources/diseases-by-animal/raccoons.aspx>

<http://idreamofclean.net/the-easiest-way-to-clean-out-a-large-outdoor-garbage-can/>

<http://www.wikihow.com/Keep-Raccoons-Out-of-a-Trash-Can>

<http://www.havahart.com/articles/keep-raccoons-away-from-your-trash>