

## **Pest Control Guidelines to prevent infestation from squirrels**



### **Squirrels**

Although the Grey Squirrel is attractive, appealing and entertaining, it can be a serious pest in the garden and especially to a bird lover. It is very bold and soon learns to take food from bird tables, chew through peanut feeders and take seeds from tube feeders. In addition and if it isn't always able to get the food from the feeder, it will seriously damage it and often to the point that the feeder is no longer usable. It will also destroy birds' nests to eat eggs and nestlings. They will also damage trees by chewing off bark (which can kill small or young trees).



The Grey Squirrel can also take up residence in lofts where it can do great damage – not to mention make considerable noise.

So although often endearing, the Grey Squirrel is a serious pest and should generally be discouraged from gardens – though this may take some doing, as they are very tenacious and determined.

### **Preventative measures:**

- Reduce potential food sources in your garden, e.g. do not put out food for birds, or if doing so, use a steel, mesh feeder that the squirrels will be unable to access.
- Block up possible entry points to your home with chicken wire, e.g. access points to attic space. If doing so, ensure the area is not already a home for squirrels before installing the chicken wire.
- Install deterrent devices in your home and garden, these can include devices that emit ultrasonic waves and sensors that will squirt a jet of water at moving animals in the garden. It should be noted that these devices may prove troublesome to other animals, such as household pets.

### **Pest Control:**

Squirrels are rodents and so prone to gnawing, if they get into a building they may consequently cause damage to electrical wiring or pipework. This damage can lead to accidental fire or flood and it is important to prevent this if possible because many insurance policies will not cover damages caused by rodents.

Due to their protected status, squirrels may not be exterminated in the same manner as rats and mice. If your home is infiltrated by these pests, you must, by law, employ the services of a licensed pest control company to remove them. The most common method for dealing with squirrels is humane trapping within spring-loaded cages.