

## Setting a Trap

It is best to set a trap to close o where squirrels enter a building, along the path that they travel, or right in the building where they are living,

The basic steps to setting the trap are:

1. Compress the spring on the door and lift door.
2. Catch and fasten the trigger onto the small brass swivel on the door.
3. Place bait at the back of the trap, making sure that it doesn't slide under the pan.



Peanut butter on a cracker works well for bait. If squirrels are eating seeds from your bird feeder, try using bird seed as bait. Put a piece of newspaper in the bottom to keep the seed from falling through the wire.



## For More Information about Avoiding Squirrel-Human Conflict



[Contact Agriculture Services](#)

Phone: 780-524-7621

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## Guide to Managing Squirrels



## Agriculture Services

Greenview, Alberta, Canada

*A great place to live, work and play.*

[www.mdgreenview.ab.ca](http://www.mdgreenview.ab.ca)

## General Information

The red squirrel is an Alberta native that is very well adapted to living around humans. Houses, garages and sheds are safe, warm, and comfortable living spaces for squirrels.

Squirrels breed in March and April and typically have four to five young born in late May or early June. These young are weaned at 10 weeks of age and afterwards they start exploring with their parents. Squirrels are active during the day and do not hibernate. On cold days in the winter, they will stay in their nests and eat food that they have stored there.

The squirrel diet consists of mainly nuts and seeds, especially those of spruce and pine cones. They also eat other foods such as mushrooms, flowers, and insects.



### Pest Nature

Squirrels do not cause problems when they remain in their natural habitat. However, when they move into human territory, they can become a problem. Squirrels can cause damage to buildings by chewing holes in soffits and fascia boards, removing insulation, and chewing on electrical wires, increasing the risk of fires. They also have a tendency to invading storage sheds and other buildings, chewing on certain items and filling others with stored food. Squirrels feeding can also damage young trees, gardens, and bird feeders.

## Squirrel-proofing

Removing and re-locating squirrels is only sufficient if you repair or plug the areas where the squirrels were entering. Without doing this, it only provides room for a new tenant.

Before repairing or plugging any entry holes, be sure that the squirrels are out of the building first. A squirrel trapped inside will try to get out, so if you hear a squirrel scratching, reopen the hole to let the squirrel out.

Cover entry holes with hardware cloth, and be sure to extend the mesh several inches beyond the opening. Repair loose soffits and fascia, maintain weatherstripping around doors and windows, and keep doors and windows closed.

Keep bird feeders away from trees so that squirrels cannot jump onto them. Hanging feeders or putting a metal collar on pedestal-type feeders make it harder for squirrels to reach the seeds. Clean up any spilled bird seed and keep other sources of food in closed containers.



## Relocating a Squirrel

If you choose to trap and relocate a squirrel, find a natural area or spruce tree stand that is away from other homes.

The best time to relocate squirrels is after the young are weaned and before winter food storage begins. This window occurs late August to early September.

Squirrel traps are available for rent from Greenview Agriculture Services.

