



# don't get skunked!

Skunks are found throughout most of North America and are best known for their strong "don't-mess-with-me" spray. Skunks are nocturnal, needing a quiet and dark place during the day time. Their homes are usually in burrows but they will also

nest under houses, decks, woodpiles, etc.

Skunks are attracted by pet food, ripe fruit, water, snails and insects. They can uproot gardens and lawns when searching for food.

Their nesting season is usually April through June. Skunks do have an important role and place in the ecosystem. Learn how you can coexist peacefully with them.

## TO AVOID BEING SPRAYED

- Keep pets indoors at night when skunks are more likely to be out.
- Keep dogs on a leash when walking in wild areas.

## IF YOU ARE SPRAYED

- Wash with **Simple Green**, rinsing well, followed with a vinegar rinse.
- You can also try washing with a mixture of 1 qt. of 3% hydrogen peroxide (from the drug store), ¼ cup baking soda, one tsp. liquid soap. Keep the mixture out of eyes, nose and mouth. Follow with a tap water rinse. Do not store this mixture in a close bottle – it could explode. This quantity is sufficient for a cat or a small dog.
- Wash clothes with **Simple Green** and use a dilute bleach solution to rinse if the item is safe to bleach.
- Use a commercial skunk deodorizer, available from veterinarians or feed stores.

## IF YOUR HOUSE HAS BEEN SPRAYED

- Wash sprayed surfaces with a bleach solution or commercial skunk deodorizer.
- Boil water and rosemary on your stove to eliminate the odor from the inside of the house.

## TO KEEP SKUNKS FROM ENTERING YOUR YARD

- A 3-foot-high wire mesh fence extended 6 inches beneath the ground surface will keep most striped skunks out.
- Commercial repellants may work on a temporary basis. Use around the perimeter of the yard.
- Try this homemade repellant: one cup of castor oil plus one cup liquid dish detergent, mixed with a gallon of water in a spray can. Spray well around the area.
- Most repellants work to varying degrees based on how enticing the attractant is.

## SKUNK UNDER THE HOUSE?

- Find the entrance, usually a loose vent cover, sometimes a hole dug under the foundation. Wait until the skunk comes out, then securely close the hole. Make sure there are no babies still under the house.
- If there are babies present, leave the hole open and make the area unpleasant with lights and noise. Skunks are very sensitive to light. The mother will move her babies to another nest site and you can safely close the hole.
- Sprinkle flour or corn starch on the ground around the opening so you can more easily check for footprints to see if the skunk has come out.