

HOW TO GET AN ANIMAL OUT OF THE WALL



Once you have identified the type of animal trapped in your home, you need to target the specific problem. Can the animal climb up and down, or is it stuck inside the wall? Each issue requires different steps to be resolved.

IF THE ANIMAL IS ABLE TO MOVE AROUND FREELY

Start by trying to identify possible entry points. Animals generally enter through the attic, where they then fall or crawl down into the wall from the top. Attempting to first draw the animal out on its own can potentially prevent having to remove it with methods that are more drastic. Here are some methods you can try to rid the animal from your house:

- **Ultrasonic repellents** use high frequencies to repel pests without the use of chemicals. These can effectively drive your animal invader away with little interference from you.
- Place **food lures** in a trap at the entry points to draw them out of their hiding spot. Wet cat food is a great option for luring a range of pests, particularly raccoons. Peanut butter, on the other hand, is an excellent choice for enticing squirrels. When choosing your bait, make sure the animal can easily smell it from a distance.

IF THE ANIMAL IS STUCK INSIDE THE WALL

A stuck animal likely doesn't have enough to grasp onto to climb back out. The inside of your walls may be too smooth to provide traction, especially for baby animals with little climbing experience. In this case, you will have to try physically to remove it.

- Mice and rats may be relatively easy to remove on your own by using heavy gloves and a long grasping device to pull them out from the top of the wall. However, animals with a nasty bite, such as raccoons and squirrels, may require an animal control specialist.
- If you are unable to simply reach down into the wall and retrieve the critters, you will need to cut a hole in the wall where they are trapped.

You should never simply leave a trapped animal with the expectation that they will eventually find their way out. If they are truly stuck, they will ultimately die of starvation, dehydration, or exhaustion from trying to escape. A dead animal, even a small one, will create an unbearable scent as it decomposes and you will still have to take strides to remove it.

KEEP PESTS OUT OF YOUR HOUSE

In order to prevent birds and rodents from entering your house in the first place, there are many simple solutions. These include:

- Keeping garbage sealed away in trash cans
- Trimming all branches that come within three feet of your walls or roof
- Checking your house for cracks and gaps in the foundation, siding, or roof and sealing them
- Bringing all pet food and bird feed indoors overnight
- Adding a cap to your chimney

SIGNS OF COMMON ANIMAL INVADERS

- **Bats** will often make squeaking noises in the various darkened corridors that it frequents, such as attics.
- **Rodents** are prone to infest attics, crawl spaces, basements, and wall cavities. If you have rats and mice, you will hear scratching coming from these areas.
- If a **bird** winds up in your attic, it's liable to make scratching, chirping or pecking noises if it can't find its way back outside.
- **Raccoons** will gnaw electrical wires, shred up insulation and make some of the loudest shrieks of any home invader.
- **Squirrels** are louder than rats or mice and can do a lot more damage to home interiors. The sounds of a squirrel range from short chirps to sustained squawks.