ABRA KADABRA
PEST AND WILDLIFE

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A BAT, SQUIRREL, OR RACCOON INSIDE YOUR HOUSE?

A SAFETY-FIRST GUIDE FOR MINNESOTA HOMEOWNERS



Finding wildlife inside your home can be alarming. Whether it's a bat flying through a room or a raccoon that made its way inside, how you respond in the first few minutes matters—for your safety, your home, and the animal. This guide outlines exactly what to do, what not to do, and when to call a professional.

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FIRST: STAY CALM AND PROTECT YOUR SAFETY

Wild animals inside a home are usually scared and disoriented. Sudden movements or attempts to capture them can lead to injury.

Immediately:

- Keep people and pets out of the room
- Close interior doors to contain the animal if possible
- Do not attempt to touch or corner the animal
- Avoid loud noises or chasing

If anyone has been bitten or scratched, seek medical attention immediately.



IF YOU FIND A BAT INSIDE YOUR HOME

Bats require special care due to potential health risks.

Important Health Note

- If a bat is found in a bedroom, nursery, or near a sleeping person, do not release it
- Do not touch the bat
- Contact a wildlife professional and follow public health guidance

What to Do

- Open a screened window or door to create airflow and encourage the bat to land on the screen (without risking your safety)
- Isolate the bat in one room, sealing gaps under doors
- Call a wildlife professional for emergency bat removal and rabies testing
- Consult the CDC or your physician about potential exposure

What Not to Do

- Do not kill the bat
- Do not release it if there was possible human contact



IF YOU FIND A SQUIRREL INSIDE YOUR HOME

Squirrels often enter through attic openings and may enter living spaces.

What to Do

- Close off the room and remove pets
- Open one clear exit (door or window to the outside)
- Dim the lights and leave the area
- Allow the squirrel time to escape on its own

What Not to Do

- Do not attempt to grab or trap the squirrel
- Do not chase it with objects
- Do not block all exits

Squirrels can bite and cause damage when stressed.



IF YOU FIND A RACCOON INSIDE YOUR HOME

Raccoons are strong, intelligent, and potentially aggressive when cornered.

What to Do

- Leave the area immediately if safe to do so
- Secure pets and family members
- Close doors behind you if possible
- Call a wildlife professional right away

What Not to Do

- Do not attempt to herd or trap a raccoon
- Do not use food to lure it
- Do not confront or corner the animal

Raccoons pose serious safety risks and should only be handled by trained professionals.

After the Animal Is Out: What Comes Next

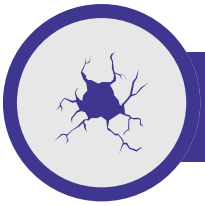
Even if the animal leaves on its own, the issue may not be fully resolved. Here are the next important steps to take:



Inspect attic, walls, and insulation for damage



Check for droppings, nesting material, or contamination



Identify and seal the entry point



Disinfect affected areas properly



Monitor for additional activity



WHY DIY REMOVAL CAN MAKE THINGS WORSE

- Animals may re-enter through the same opening
- Trapped wildlife can die inside walls or attics
- Incomplete sealing can cause animals to create new exit holes
- Improper sealing can trap offspring inside.
- Health risks increase without proper protective equipment

Wildlife control requires proper timing, exclusion methods, and cleanup.



WHEN TO CALL A PROFESSIONAL

Contact a professional Immediately if:

- The animal will not leave on its own
- You suspect multiple animals
- There is attic or insulation damage
- The animal had contact with people or pets
- You are unsure where it entered

Professionals ensure safe removal, full exclusion, and long-term prevention.

Safety First. Prevention Always

Wildlife encounters inside the home are stressful, but the right response prevents injury and future issues. Acting quickly and responsibly protects both your household and the animal. For Minnesota homeowners, professional wildlife control is the safest and most effective solution.

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