

Striped Skunks

AKA: Skunk or Polecat. While Striped Skunks are common, there are other skunk species that can be problems including the Spotted, Hog Nose and Hooded Skunks.

Scientific Classification: Animalia, Chordata, Mammalia, Carnivora, Caniformia, Mephitidae, *Mephitis*, *M. mephitis*.

Size & Markings: The striped skunk has a black body with white stripes along each flank that join together just behind the head. Adults can weigh up to 15 pounds and measure 18" long (not including the black and white tail). While coloring is unique, it is the odor that characterizes these animals. In two anal glands, skunks produce a sulphurous liquid mixture of thiols that it can spray with great accuracy. This extremely offensive smelling liquid wards off bears, cougars and other large predators.

Habitat: The striped skunk ranges from Southern Canada to Northern Mexico, including the continental US. It prefers woodlands, grasslands and scrubland. However, skunks have adapted to living close to or in cities, towns and villages.

Nesting/Dens: Striped skunks use burrows excavated by other animals, but will live in hollow logs, storm drains, buildings, attics, crawlspaces, etc. Females give birth to an average of 6 kits each year. The kits are weaned after 2 months but usually stay with their mother for up to a year.

Food: Striped Skunks are omnivorous. On the menu are fruits, nuts, seeds, eggs, fish, grubs and other insects, rodents, lizards, mice, squirrels and more. Striped skunks can become dependent on humans for food. Their menu usually includes food raided from garbage cans, gardens, pet food bowls, bird seed & suet, and food left out intentionally for other animals (usually raccoons or squirrels).

Impact on Human Health: Skunks carry rabies which can be transmitted to humans through bites. Saliva transmits the virus through the wound. Skunks also carry mites, ticks and other parasites that can spread from den sites into occupied structures.

Impact on Architecture: When skunks den in structures, they can damage wiring, insulation, screens, gutters, downspouts, windows and more. Skunks are very persistent and will usually find the weak points of a structure to gain access. They can climb gutters, brickwork, vines and other objects to get through holes or gaps in soffits, attic vents, chimneys, fascia boards and poorly fitting or broken windows.

Skunk Control Methods:

Bird Spikes: [Premium Nixalite Stainless Steel Climbing Barrier Spikes](#).

Access Barriers: [Welded Wire Mesh](#) and [Copper Blocker Access Control](#).

Additional Products: [Vent & Chimney Guards](#), [Live Capture Animal Traps](#), [Scarecrow Motion Activated Water Jet](#), [RoPel Animal Taste Repellent](#).

NOTE: It is your responsibility to check local, state and federal regulations regarding the control of bird and/or animal species.

Simply purchasing the best control does not guarantee success. Best results come from a thorough knowledge of both the species and the product or method you employ. If you have any questions, please contact Nixalite of America Inc and speak with a wildlife control product specialist.



If you can see both ends of the skunk at the same time, you are at risk of being sprayed with the skunk's primary defence weapon.



The white on black markings make striped skunks easy to spot. On some, the black may be closer to brown and the white may be in spots or swirls, but they all smell the same!



Striped skunks are adaptable and will den in nearly any protected space. They will use both wild and man-made structures for protection.

Note: factual content from Wikipedia, Audubon, US Center for Disease Control, US Federal Register Codebook, and others.



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