

# Tree Squirrels

**AKA:** Grey Squirrel, Red Squirrel, Black Squirrel, Fox Squirrel, etc.

**Scientific Classification:** Animalia, Chordata, Mammalia, Rodentia, Sciuromorpha, Sciuridae. There are more than 40 different tree squirrel species in North America.

**Size & Markings:** While there are 40 different species, this page concentrates on the Grey and Fox tree squirrels as they are the most commonly reported pest species. Greys are usually dark grey on top with a white belly. Fox Squirrels are usually a red tinged grey on top with a reddish tan belly. Coat color varies for both species - ranging from full black to albino white.

**Habitat:** Tree squirrels live most of their lives in trees. They prefer forested to semi-wooded areas in both wild and urban settings. They live in trees that are close to nut and seed producing plants as well as grass with edible shoots. They build nests 20 to 50 feet up a tree, using height as a deterrent to predators.

**Nesting/Dens:** In the wild, tree squirrels build a nest (called a "dray") in the fork of a tree, close to the trunk. It usually is a spherical shaped nest made of woven leaves and twigs with an interior of moss or other soft materials. In urban settings, they almost always nest in buildings and structures. A mating pair can produce a litter of 2 to 4 young, twice a year.

**Food:** Tree Squirrels eat mostly nuts, seeds and plant matter including; acorns, walnuts, plant buds, peanuts, seed corn and more. They have been known to eat fungi, birds eggs and food discarded by humans. They often "squirrel away" or store excess food in pre-built caches or storage areas which they rely on during lean times.

**Impact on Human Health:** Tree Squirrels are rodents and are susceptible to the diseases carried and transmitted by rodents. However, the most common complaint for tree squirrels is the physical damage they do to homes, buildings and other structures.

**Impact on Architecture:** When Tree Squirrels nest in man-made structures, they can damage wiring, insulation, HVAC systems, lights, siding and more. Their habit of chewing on power cables causes power outages and electrical fires. They raid bird feeders and take seed and suet intended for birds. Inquisitive and persistent, squirrels go to great lengths to get to nests or food. They can chew through wood, vinyl and sheet metal surfaces to get back in attics, crawlspaces, ductwork and chimneys.

## Tree Squirrel 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.



*The Eastern Grey Tree Squirrel is the most common squirrel pest in North America. The fur color ranges from light grey to jet black.*



*The Fox Squirrel is a common raider at bird feeders. These persistent animals defeat over-the-counter "anti-squirrel" features. Changing the type of seed can help stop squirrel raiders.*



*For individuals, capture and relocation can be effective. Trapping can be as much art as science. Know your quarry and know your trap.*

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



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