

Ground Hogs

AKA: Woodchuck, Whistle-Pig, Land Beaver, etc.

Scientific Classification: Animalia, Chordata, Mammalia, Rodentia, Sciuridae, Marmota, *M. monax*.

Size & Markings: The Groundhog is a rodent closely related to squirrels. They grow to 24" long and weigh up to 25 pounds. Their low-slung body is adapted to digging with short, powerful legs and thick, curved claws. Groundhogs are covered with two coats of fur; a dense dark grey undercoat with a longer coat of banded hairs that gives them a lighter appearance. Groundhogs can climb trees and are capable swimmers.

Habitat: Groundhogs are native to the US and Canada. They prefer to live in open country and at the edges of woodlands.

Nesting/Dens: Groundhogs use burrows for sleeping, rearing young, and hibernating. A Groundhog burrow is usually large, with up to 50 ft. of tunnels buried up to 5 ft. underground. Most have 2 to 5 entrances/exits for a quick getaway from predators. Groundhogs raise one brood a year consisting of 2 to 6 kits. These are weaned and ready to go it alone after just 6 weeks.

Food: Mostly herbivorous, groundhogs eat primarily wild grasses and other vegetation, including berries and agricultural crops, when available. They can eat grubs, grasshoppers, insects, snails and other small animals, but are not as omnivorous as many other related species.

Impact on Human Health: Like all rodents, Groundhogs carry rabies which can be transmitted to humans through bites. The groundhog's saliva transmits the virus through the bite wound. They also carry mites, ticks and other parasites that can spread from den sites into occupied structures such as homes and businesses. In the wild, groundhogs are very aggressive animals and will defend both dens and feeding areas from all comers - regardless of size. Attacks on humans are not uncommon.

Impact on Architecture: The most common complaints about groundhogs are their voracious appetites and the holes they dig. When fattening up for lean times, groundhogs eat huge amounts of grass and other plants. It does not care if it comes from a garden, golf course or other manicured area. It's burrow can pose a threat to man, livestock and machine. Burrows have undermined foundations of buildings.

Groundhog 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.



While they are excellent burrowers, groundhogs can also climb and swim very well. They often climb trees to escape predators.



Groundhogs are the bane of many a gardener. Their voracious feeding during the summer and fall seasons can decimate gardens and landscaping.



Groundhogs can be aggressive, fearlessly defending both den and feeding sites from any sized opponent - including humans.

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



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