

North American Beaver

AKA: Beaver, American Beaver, Canadian Beaver.

Scientific Classification: Animalia, Chordata, Mammalia, Rodentia, Castoridae, *Castor*, *C. canadensis*.

Size & Markings: The North American Beaver is the largest rodent in North America. The thick insulating fur coat can be dark brown to light tan. Adults weigh an average of 50 pounds and can be 44" long. With webbed hind feet and rudder-like tail, beavers are excellent swimmers and can stay submerged for up to 15 minutes. The eyes are covered by a nictitating membrane which allows the beaver to see underwater. A thick layer of fat under its skin insulates the beaver from its cold water environment.

Habitat: As the name implies, the North American Beaver is native to North America. It builds dams and lodges in streams, rivers, lakes, ponds and tidal deltas from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Arctic Tundra to Mexico.

Dams & Dens: Beaver dams are long but relatively narrow barricades made of logs, branches, rocks, grass and mud. They hold back or slow a stream's or spring's water, creating a pond or small lake behind the dam. It is in this body of water that the beaver builds a second structure; the lodge. This is a large pile of tree branches, sticks, grass, rocks and mud that is hollowed out from below, creating a secure living space inside. Accessible from underwater, the lodge is where beavers live year round.

Life Cycle: Beavers mate for life and produce one litter of 2 to 6 kits per year. The young stay with the parents for an average of 2 years.

Food: Beavers are herbivores, eating the inner bark, leaves and buds of live trees. They have a preference for poplar and aspen trees, but on occasion will eat the leaves of maple, birch, alder, beech, ash, pine and spruce trees. This gives them a varied diet. They also eat water lilies and various berries. Beavers do not eat fish.

Impact on Human Health: Beavers can carry Giardiasis, a parasitic disease that can be transmitted from beavers to humans through direct contact or by ingestion of contaminated water or food. This parasitic affliction causes gastroenteritis and other gastric infections and distress.

Impact on Property: Beaver dams cause flooding above the dam and loss of water flow below. Floods damage homes, businesses, roads, crops, etc. A beaver's preferred diet (tree bark) and their habit of girdling (stripping the bark off a tree's circumference) can kill a tree or make it more susceptible to disease.

North American Beaver Control Methods:

Live Capture Animal Traps, Sheet metal banding, Stainless Steel Welded Wire Mesh Barriers.

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.



Beavers are the largest rodent in North America and the second largest rodent in the world, trailing only the South American Capybara.



Beaver dams create ponds in which beavers build their lodges. The largest beaver dam in existence is 2,790 ft. long and was discovered by satellite imagery! It's in Alberta Canada.



When a beaver 'girdles' a tree, it strips the bark off the entire circumference. This can kill the tree or make it more susceptible to disease.

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



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