



RACCOONS

Raccoons, also nicknamed "coons" or "trash panda" for short, are mammals that are rarely seen during the day because of their nocturnal habits.

RACCOON INFESTATION

The key signs of a raccoon infestation are both visual and audible. Damage to a home's insulation, wood, shingles, electrical wiring, walls or other parts of the structure is a telltale sign that a raccoon has taken up residence inside. Another indication of a raccoon infestation is the presence of droppings, urine stains, or built-up materials from creating a nest.

Additionally, raccoons often raid, and can make a mess of, contents in garbage cans while they are in search of food. If a homeowner notices trash dispersed on the property, raccoons could be to blame. Raccoon paw prints may also be visible in the yard.

Raccoons sometimes destroy bird nests and damage gardens, so any signs of these types of activities can also mean there is a raccoon infestation. Hearing loud thuds and noises from raccoon movement can also signify a homeowner has raccoons in the home.



HOW CAN I DETER RACCOONS?

There are various precautions that homeowners can take to try to avoid a raccoon infestation from taking root. First, raccoons can find access into homes through broken vents, holes, uncapped chimneys and other openings along the roof, which is why homeowners should regularly inspect, repair and seal any of these or other potential points of entry. Loose siding and shingles should also be repaired, and it's also helpful to install a mesh cover or cap over chimneys and other exposed openings to prevent entry.

Homeowners should store trash in sealed areas, ideally as a locked shed or outhouse. Raccoons are very adept at learning how to open garbage cans, so if trash cans are kept out in the open, it's best to use tightly fitting, animal-proof lids to avoid unwanted attention from hungry raccoons on the prowl for food. Birdseed, bird feeders and fountains should also be removed, as they are sources of sustenance to raccoons and other wildlife. Likewise, built up debris, brush and leaves can serve as perfect hiding spots and dwellings for raccoons, so it's important to regularly rid the yard of these piles.



HOW TO GET RID OF RACCOONS

If an infestation is suspected and you need additional information regarding how to get rid of raccoons, contact a licensed pest professional to inspect the property and formulate a plan to get rid of raccoons. Homeowners should not attempt to address an infestation themselves, especially since these wild animals may be carrying rabies or other disease which can potentially transmit to humans, including raccoon roundworm, which is an intestinal parasite. This is transmitted through unintentionally ingesting a microscopic roundworm egg.

Watauga Animal Services can provide Watauga residents with a trap for a \$55.00 deposit that will be returned to you once you have trapped the wildlife/animal you are wanting removed from your property. You may also use your own private trap as long as it is humane, Animal Control will remove whatever you may have trapped. If you believe you have a raccoon in your attic or walls, Animal Services can not assist with their removal. You may still rent a trap and place it in your home but we will only service the trap if it has been placed in an open area once the raccoon has been trapped.

Click [here](#) to print a Live Animal Trap Request Form.

