



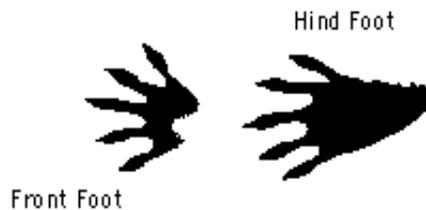
Raccoon Sign, Identify Damage and Conflict Prevention



Photos UDWR



Photo Jen Zablöckl



Raccoon Track by Chad Glasner

Tracks

The five long rear toes and the “hand-like” front print are characteristic of raccoon tracks. Tracks are approx. 2- 4 ½ inches long.



ICWDM



Scat

Usually tubular and contains whatever they have recently eaten: (berries, seeds, feathers, fur).

Legal status

Raccoons are not protected in Utah. Utah state law prohibits possessing a live raccoon without a permit.



Photo Eric Peterson

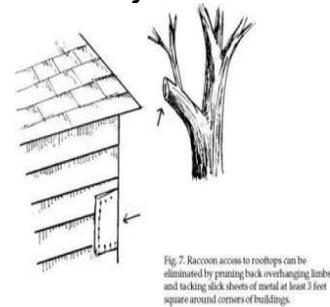
Damage Images

Raccoons have been known to inhabit chimneys, attics, basements and garages. They can enter through holes already present or create their own entry hole.



Avoid Conflicts

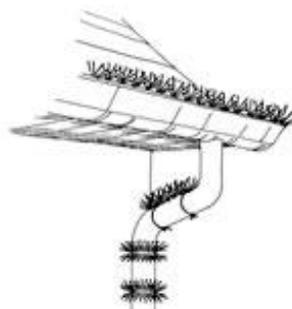
Determining that raccoons are responsible for the damage is the first step; removing attractants and exclusion are the next steps in avoiding conflicts. ***Involving neighbors in these efforts is the key to success.***



Exclusion and Deterants

Install chimney caps to prevent raccoons from nesting. Fall is the best time to install the caps, since the raccoons are not raising young. If you discover raccoons have moved into your uncovered chimney, it is best to wait for them to move out on their own. After eight to ten weeks the mother and young will leave and not return.

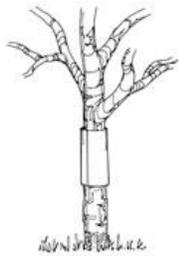
Cover attic exhaust pipes with hardware cloth to block entry points. To deter raccoons from your property, install motion sensor lighting, and if possible use in conjunction with noise makers, such as a radio. Trim back overhanging tree limbs and tack 3 foot square sheets of slick metal on the corners of buildings. Doing so will prevent raccoons from climbing onto the building.



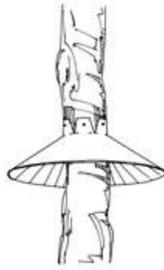
(Drawings by Jenifer Rees.) Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.



Above is a photo of an uncovered window well. Open window wells can easily trap wildlife. To prevent wildlife from falling into window wells, cover them with a grate. Commercially available metal or plastic spikes can help keep raccoons off of buildings. Prevent raccoons from entering your home in search of food by locking pet doors at night. You can also fence off gardens or ponds to keep raccoons out.



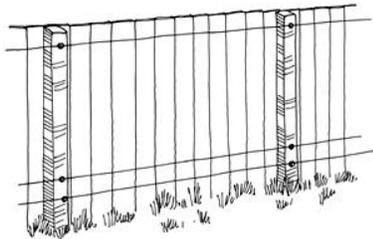
(Drawing by Jenifer Rees.) Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.



A raccoon guard can be secured around trees, pipes, posts, and other structures to keep raccoons from climbing. The guard can be made from a piece of aluminum flashing or sheet metal, held together with wire, nails, or screws, and painted to blend in. (Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.)

Repellants

There are no toxicants or repellents that have proven useful for raccoon control.

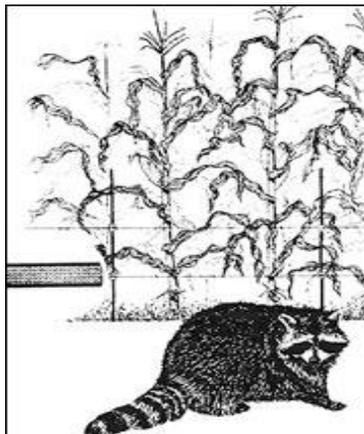


Drawing of a fence with electric wires at the top and bottom.

(Drawing by Jenifer Rees.) Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.

Fencing

Use woven wire fencing around hobby poultry yards and gardens. Raccoons can easily climb wood or wire fences, or bypass them by using overhanging limbs of trees or shrubs. Wire fences will need to have a mesh size that is no wider than 3 inches to keep young raccoons out. Install two electrified wires, 12 and 18 inches above ground and onto existing fence posts, poultry pen supports, and other structures, using the proper insulators. Adding an electrified wire to the top of the fence will prevent raccoons from climbing over. (Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.)



Drawing of a ribbon electric fence.

USU Cooperative Extension

Adding a two-wire electric fence will help keep raccoons out of field or garden crops. Inset shows the "ribbon-type" electric fence in place of the single-wire type. This ribbon fence is more visible to raccoons and other wildlife and may improve control. (USU Cooperative Extension)

Remove attractants

Trash should be kept indoors at night and put out the morning of pick-up. If this cannot be done, trash cans should be secured to avoid being overturned and the lids should be weighed or locked. After market cables and locking devices can be purchased to secure trash cans and dumpsters.



www.raccoonsolutions.com

If a raccoon becomes trapped inside a garbage can or dumpster, place a sturdy branch in the dumpster to allow the raccoon to climb out on its own.



Do not leave pet food or water bowls outside.
Keep pets, especially housecats and poultry indoors at night.



Raccoon on porch or in yard

Use noise makers to scare the raccoon away. Use a hose or water gun to deter the animal from approaching. Keep a good distance from the animal and do not corner it.

Raccoon inside a home

Close off access to other areas of the home, open doors and windows and go outside and watch for the raccoon to leave. Do not use food as bait. If it still won't leave, contact a professional pest control company. Do not attempt to remove the animal yourself.

If you have problems with raccoons that cannot be resolved by following these tips, consult a professional, licensed animal control company. Visit this link:

http://wildlife.utah.gov/habitat/nuisance_control.php

Information from USU Cooperative Extension USDA Wildlife Damage and Management Series and Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management (ICWDM) and Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Adapted from "Living with Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest" (see <http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/living.htm>) Written by: Russell Link, WDFW Urban Wildlife Biologist, Linkrel@dfw.wa.gov