

Keeping raccoons away - The humane way

A few tips and tricks from the Green Line, DDO

Friendly reminders

Raccoons are intelligent and curious mammals that many people find adorable—but in urban settings, they can sometimes become a nuisance. While they may seem bold, raccoons are naturally shy. When confronted, their instinct is to freeze and observe, not attack. If the raccoons in your neighborhood are unusually fearless, someone nearby may be unintentionally feeding them—perhaps through accessible garbage, compost bins, or pet food left outdoors.

A raccoon living under a deck or shed from January to September should ALWAYS be assumed to be a mother with babies (Toronto Wildlife Center). Mother raccoons are highly protective and nurturing. Evicting a mother can cause her to become separated from her young, which could leave them orphaned. Always take precautions and use gentle methods that give her time to relocate her babies safely. Raccoons are excellent mothers and will move their babies to a new den site when frightened, so you can use lights, smells, noises, water and animals.

Repellents

Lights

Raccoons being nocturnal, they dislike lights as they disrupt their natural cycle, keeping them awake. Having either some movement detection lights or any bright spotlights towards their den will prevent them from feeling peaceful in their hideout.



Water and dogs

Raccoons are not natural swimmers, and they are not fans of getting wet. Having some water running in their burrow can make them uncomfortable. As for dogs, they are perceived as predators by raccoons, so having a dog around can keep them away.



Noises

Loud noises scare raccoons. If a raccoon is visiting your property, it is probably in a spot you are not using too loudly. Loud or unexpected sounds can make raccoons feel unsafe.

- Bang pots, clap loudly, or speak firmly near their den
- Leave a radio playing talk shows or human voices near their hideout
- Avoid music—they're more sensitive to conversational tones than melodies



Smells

Raccoons also hate strong smells. Here is a list of smells that can deter them:

- **Peppermint oil** – Raccoons despise the odor of peppermint oil and will avoid it at all costs.
- **Ammonia** – Soaked rags or cotton balls with ammonia.
- **Garlic** – The pungent smell of garlic is a turn-off for raccoons and can repel them effectively.
- **Vinegar** – Fill a spray bottle with vinegar and water, then apply it along the perimeter.
- **Onions** – Onions are easy to get and can be easily installed around the house yard. Raccoons dislike the smell of onions, and placing them in gardens or garbage bins will drive the raccoons away.
- **Hot pepper** – Fill a spray bottle with cayenne pepper and water, then apply it along the perimeter of your yard or garden to prevent them from entering.
- **Dogs** – As they are perceived as predators by raccoons, spreading dog fur around your property will make the raccoons think the environment is unsafe.

Some store-products examples

Critter Ridder Animal Repellent 1 kg (NOT SAFE FOR PETS AND KIDS)

Repellent Scram - Coyote urine 250ml (SAFE FOR PETS AND KIDS)



Still need help?
Contact the Green line at 514.684.3114