



# Keeping groundhogs away – The humane way

*A few tips and tricks from the Green Line, DDO*

## FRIENDLY REMINDERS

### ⚠️ Trapping wildlife is prohibited

In accordance with **Article 31 of the Act respecting t**

**The conservation and development of wildlife (C-61.1):** “No person may use a trap to capture an animal unless authorized under this Act and its regulations. Only licensed trappers or pest management professionals may legally trap groundhogs. Trapping without a permit is punishable by fines and legal action..”

Violating this rule is **subject to fines**. More info at: [legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca](http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca)

### 🥕 Remove food sources

Groundhogs are herbivores and are attracted to vegetable gardens, fruit trees, and clover.

### 📌 Consistency is key

Most repellents must be **reapplied every few days or after rain**. Use a **combination** of methods for best results.



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## REPELLENT METHODS

### 🍏 Apple cider vinegar spray

Spray a 50/50 mix of apple cider vinegar and water near burrow entrances or garden edges. The strong smell deters digging.

### 🌿 Epsom salt sprinkle

Spread around garden beds and burrow entrances. The smell repels groundhogs, and it also benefits soil in moderation.

### 🧼 Irish Spring soap

Shave bars and scatter around areas of activity—strong scent discourages burrowing.

### 🐾 Used cat litter

Place a small bag of used (non-clumping) cat litter near burrow entrances. The scent suggests predators nearby and may encourage relocation.

### Dog or human hair

Sprinkle in garden beds and around burrows to signal predator presence—chemical-free deterrent.

## PHYSICAL BARRIERS & NON-REPELLENT METHODS

### Burrow blocking (Safe for pets and kids)

Wait until the groundhog leaves, then fill the hole with gravel, followed by soil, and secure with mesh or a rock slab. Avoid blocking active burrows with babies (typically May–July).

### Garden fencing (Safe for pets and kids)

Use L-shaped mesh fencing (at least 3 feet tall and 1 foot underground, bent outward). Groundhogs are strong diggers—this discourages tunneling.

### Trim plants near structures

Keep vegetation low around sheds, decks, and foundations to reduce shelter opportunities.

### Motion-activated sprinklers

Startles without harm and discourages return visits.



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## UNSAFE FOR PETS AND KIDS SECTION

### Ultrasonic repellents (Not safe for pets and kids)

Devices emit high-pitched sounds to deter rodents. May affect pet behavior or hearing—**not recommended** in homes with cats or dogs.

### Capsaicin-based sprays (Not safe for pets and kids)

These sprays contain hot pepper extract and can irritate pets or children if touched or ingested. **Use with gloves and keep out of reach.**

### Garlic and cayenne mix (Not safe for pets)

Homemade repellent using crushed garlic, cayenne pepper, and water. **Can irritate pets' paws, eyes, and digestive systems.**

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## 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)

ture's defense groundhog repellent granules (SAFE FOR PETS AND KIDS)



Still need help? Contact the Green line at 514.684.3114