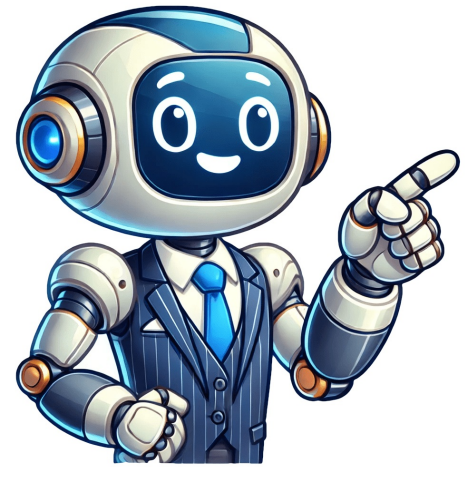


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How to get a possum out of your vents

Are you in need of opossum removal services? Our team covers over 500 locations across the USA! To find out more about our pricing and scheduling for your specific area, click here and we'll get started - updated for 2020. Typically classified as pests due to their scavenging habits and preference for living under houses or in attics, opossums cause various issues when residing in attics. Some of the problems associated with having possums in your attic include: Noise from them moving around Large droppings scattered throughout the space The spread of diseases and parasites within the house Baby opossums falling down walls or scratching surfaces if they get separated from their mother Additionally, when adult or baby possums die in the attic, a severe odor can be left behind. Opossums also cause damage to insulation and ductwork. For these reasons, it's crucial to have opossums properly removed from your attic if you're experiencing these issues. Many people are surprised to learn that I specialize in removing possums from attics. With my expertise, I've successfully removed many opossums from homes across various locations. Opossums are skilled climbers due to their opposable thumbs and prefer the warmth and safety of an attic space. Female opossums often seek a safe place for their young by instinct, which means finding them usually involves finding the mother with her babies clinging to her 24/7. However, if you do need to remove the young separately, it's easier because they cling to their mother at all times. During winter, opossums can exhibit unusual behavior by denning up in groups of adults. I've encountered instances where six adult opossums were living together in one attic during the coldest months, which is unusual since possums are not typically social animals. Opossums leave a significant mess with their large droppings and often die within attics, resulting in an unbearable stench. For more information on understanding opossum behavior, I recommend reading our guide on Opossum Mating Habits. So, how do you get opossums out of the attic? Trapping or removal by hand using a snare pole is usually the most effective method, followed by exclusion doors if necessary. Education and preparation are key; here's what you need to know about possums in your attic: - **Noise and Time**: Opossums are nocturnal creatures that tend to be slow-moving and make heavy footsteps or crawling sounds within the attic. They can be quite quiet. - **Getting Inside**: Possums enter homes by climbing up and exploiting openings like uncovered soffit vents or gaps in the eaves. They don't force their way in but do need a somewhat large opening. - **Evidence**: Large, often pointed turds are left behind along with trails of disturbed insulation. People also notice the smell either while the opossums are alive (tolerable) or dead (intolerable). - **Time of Year**: Opossum mothers typically enter attics around May and June to keep their young safe, then again in December and January to protect themselves from the cold. - **Control Methods**: Contrary to popular beliefs, mothballs, ammonia, ultrasonic sound emitters, or strobe lights are not effective deterrents. In fact, these methods have been ruled as fraudulent by the FTC. To learn more about why certain repellents do not work and how you can effectively deal with opossums in your attic or shed, click here. Given article text here Opossums in attics can be a significant problem, making it uncomfortable for homeowners. These marsupials require specific conditions to rest, which can lead to them occupying attics at night to find food before returning. The presence of opossums in an attic poses several issues, including noise from their movement, excessive fecal droppings, associated parasites and disease germs, and the risk of a sick animal dying inside and causing environmental harm. To remove opossums from an attic, it is essential to have the right knowledge and tools. Two effective methods are live traps and exclusion practices. Live traps can be used by baiting them with food such as fish, apples, or canned pet food, which works well due to their strong smells. The trap should be placed inside or outside the attic near the entry point, ensuring that all basic rules are followed. Another method is using an exclusion door, which blocks opossums from re-entering once they have exited through it. Locating the exit point and sealing all other access points into the attic is crucial. If needed, manually removing the opossums by hand or digging them out can also be effective. A faint scuttling sound may be heard, accompanied by occasional scratching noises emanating from the attic. It's not uncommon for signs of scavenging activity to appear, such as ripped garbage bags or pilfered pet food. To capture an opossum, set up a cage trap in the attic with a small amount of bait, like apples, fish, or pet food. Leaving a trail of food leading to the trap can increase its chances of success. Once caught, relocate the opossum at least 10 miles away from your property to a rural area where it won't become a nuisance. After removal, clear any feces and soiled insulation, identify access holes, and seal them to prevent future infestations. Keep pet food stores and garbage inaccessible to discourage opossums and other pests. So, if you've got a possum problem in your attic, here's what you can do. First off, mix some ammonia with a few rags and spread them around the space. The smell should keep 'em away from nesting there. You could also try banging on the ceiling where they're making noise or getting in. If that doesn't work, go upstairs and make a big ruckus with pots and pans - hopefully, it'll scare 'em off for good. Some people take it further by playing loud music inside the attic to confuse them. As long as you can get the possum out, they won't come back. The problem is usually that they're looking for food or shelter, so make sure your yard is clean - no leftover food or trash lying around. Keep those bins covered and bring in pet food at night. If the critter does stay put, you'll need to catch it yourself. Wear some gloves and grab hold of it if it's hiding in the attic. If that doesn't work, try setting up a live trap outside - just make sure to check on it regularly. You can also seal any holes or gaps around your house with hardware mesh to keep 'em out for good. If you do catch an opossum, don't worry if there are babies clinging to its back - they'll come with it. Just relocate the whole family as far away from home as possible and make sure it's not coming back by sealing up any entry points. You also need to think about why those possums were attracted to your place in the first place - keep your yard clean, secure trash cans, and bring pet food inside at night. 1. Utilize lights and water sprinklers as temporary deterrents for mature possums, understanding that their effectiveness diminishes over time. 2. Scatter tufts of dog or cat fur in areas frequented by possums to create the illusion of predators, prompting them to leave the premises. 3. Employ a radio with constant low-volume playback near potential opossum shelters to discourage presence through perceived human activity. 4. Position strong-smelling repellents, such as ammonia or bleach solutions, around problem areas to repel possums due to their heightened sense of smell. 5. Apply chemical repellents, containing naphthalene crystals or predator urine, to gardens and perimeter areas according to product instructions. Control Specialist and Senior Project Manager for MMPC, a Minority-owned Business Enterprise based in New York City, oversees pest control services certified by leading industry associations like NPMA, QualityPro, and NYPMA. Their work has been featured on prominent news channels such as CNN, NPR, and ABC News. Set up cage traps near your home, ideally with a wall nearby to prevent escape routes, following the manufacturer's instructions. Place bait like fruit, berries, or sardines inside to attract possums. Soft ground or plywood should be used under the trap to protect the possum's paws from injury if it tries to dig out. Set the trap at dusk when possums are active, and check it twice a day. If you find a possum in the trap, cover it with a tarp to reduce stress. When handling the trap, wear thick gloves as possums can hiss or growl, and may play dead to avoid being caught. Once you've captured a possum, relocate it after consulting your city's pest control services or department of natural resources. To release the possum, point the trap away from you, then tap the trap until the animal runs out, keeping back for safety due to the risk of scratching or biting. You might need professional help to relocate or release the possum in some areas. Additionally, cover your foundation vents with slotted metal covers and trim tree branches 5 ft from your roof to prevent possums from accessing your home through these entry points. Try installing bird control spikes along rain gutters and downspouts near your home's eaves or roof edges to prevent possums from climbing up. Next, install hardware cloth with a 1/4 inch grid screening below decks or raised porches by digging a 12 inch deep trench around the deck's perimeter and placing the screen in it before filling with dirt and securing it to the deck. If you suspect trapped possums underneath your deck, create a temporary one-way exit using a cone-shaped screen that allows them to escape but not re-enter. After ensuring all possums have left, seal the entry hole permanently. Additionally, cover any other open spaces like attic vents, chimneys, or pet doors with 1/4 inch grid screening and secure them in place with nails or staples. Check for holes in deck lattices, window screens, and door screens, and repair them as well. Ensure firewood is stacked neatly to prevent possums from making homes under loose wood piles. When searching for entry points, look for large holes around your property that are usually bigger than 6 inches in diameter. To confirm the presence of possums, sprinkle flour around suspected entryways at night and check for tracks within 3 days. Also, inspect areas near food sources like gardens, trash cans, or pet food bowls for signs of foraging, such as scattered food remnants. If you notice a smelly discharge similar to that of a skunk near outdoor decks or sheds, it could indicate possum nesting activity. If you catch wind of a stench that smells like rotting garbage, it could be a sign that an opossum has died in a hard-to-reach spot.[22] Look for some telltale signs: check if you can spot possum tracks or droppings. The prints should have 5 fingers and be around 2 inches (5.1 cm) wide. Their hind tracks are slightly bigger, with one toe pointing in the opposite direction of the others. You might also notice a trail where the opossum dragged its tail. Be on the lookout for droppings that are 1-3 in (2.5-7.6 cm) long and have pointed tips.[23] Keep in mind that possum droppings can be tricky to identify since they're opportunistic eaters and their poop changes depending on what they munch on. To deter opossums from making themselves at home, make sure to keep your trash cans covered with heavy metal lids. Eliminate standing water around your property by cutting back shrubbery and overgrowth, and sealing off crawl spaces so they can't get in. Another good idea is to scatter dog or cat fur around your yard - opossums don't like the smell of predators. If you're having trouble getting rid of them another way, try using ammonia, mothballs, or garlic to repel possums with their strong scent. Possum troubles got you down? Yeah, those furry critters can be a real nuisance! They're smart, quick, and love to rummage through your trash. Plus, they're big enough to cause some serious damage to your home or car. But don't worry, we've got a solution for you - DIY style! First off, let's get one thing straight: possums are weird creatures! They're marsupials native to North America, and they're not exactly cute. Compared to rats and mice, they're way bigger, with longer snouts and tails that can grasp onto objects. They love to climb trees using their back legs, and they've got those big ol' eyes and pointed ears. Now, you might be thinking, "How do I get rid of these pesky critters?" Well, the first step is figuring out what they're up to. Since they're nocturnal, it's tough to spot them in action. But, you can find their droppings - about 2-3 feet long and looking like cat or dog poop. These are usually found where they feed and hang around at night. It's like a trail of clues! Just remember, possums might look cute, but they're not harmless. They'll defend themselves when threatened, and they can transmit diseases to you or your pets. 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