

Skunks



Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*)

Getting rid of skunks is the best way to reduce the likelihood of having to suffer through their particular odour. Skunk odour can make it difficult to enjoy the use of your property if they have taken up residence, and skunks that feel threatened are likely to spray humans or pets, which is an extremely unpleasant experience.

Skunks are burrowing animals, and are attracted to spaces under decks, porches and sheds, as well as inside woodpiles and under rocks. They have adapted well to urban living, given the plentiful sources of food and shelter, and the relative scarcity of any natural predators. Skunks breed in February and March, and have a gestation period of eight weeks. Litters generally consist of between four and seven kits, which will usually have matured enough to be on their own by July.

Skunks are omnivores, and will eat grubs, insects, small rodents, fruits, vegetables, and carrion. They will dig up lawns and gardens to get at grubs and larvae, and will get into garbage, compost, and even pet food containers that have been left out. The best way to keep skunks from feeding on your property is to maintain a healthy lawn, to keep pet food indoors, and to keep your garbage in an animal-proof container, or keep it in your garage until garbage day.

In addition to spraying, like many animals, skunks will bite when cornered. In Ontario, skunks are known to be carriers of rabies, so any skunks on your property should be treated with caution, and not approached.

Do you smell something?

If you have a problem with skunks denning beneath your deck, porch, or shed, call The Animal Movers at (416)-410-6323 or 1-800-322-0019. We will remove the skunks, along with any young, as swiftly and humanely as possible, and repair the area so that they or other animals don't move back in.

Helpful tips: Removing skunk spray

If you or your pet has had an unfortunate encounter with a skunk, carbolic soap is the most effective way to remove the spray and its attendant smell from your skin. You will be able to buy a skunk shampoo at your local vet's office. If you or your pet has been hit in the eyes with skunk spray, flush them immediately with water, and consult a doctor or vet as soon as possible.

To get skunk smell out of your home, fill a large pot with apple juice. Bring it to a boil on the stove, then let it simmer and add cinnamon sticks to the pot. This should help with eliminating the foul odour.

See information on Skunk Tracks [here](#).