

Advice Notes for Pest Control



SQUIRREL

Squirrels – The Council cannot treat for squirrels. However you can contact a private pest control company from the yellow pages.

Description – Adult squirrels are 25cm in length and their tail is 22cm.

Further Info – Squirrels normally build their nests in the hollow of trees but sometimes they can nest in lofts of houses. This can cause a problem as they gnaw on wood and possibly electrical wires. They breed twice a year – their first litter is born around February–March and their second is born June–July. They eat a range of food, such as nuts, fruit, young shoots and birds' eggs. Squirrels also bury food to consume at a later date. It is illegal to trap and release a squirrel to another area, as they are mostly a non-native species.

Control Measures – It is difficult to stop squirrels causing damage to a garden. If you notice a nest, then you can destroy it, as this will discourage the squirrels from colonising. You should also do as much as possible to stop them gaining access to roof spaces. This could involve cutting back any overhanging branches of trees that are close to the roof. For trees that are on their own in a garden, it could be useful to put a plastic skirt around the trunk to prevent the squirrels from climbing.

If a squirrel has already got into a roof space, ensure that squirrel and nest are removed and then block off the entry access hole. You should also check the roof timbers and any electrical wiring, in case they have caused any damage. To ensure this has been done correctly, you may need to consult a competent person.