

Eliminate the Attraction

1. Secure trash cans so they can't be tipped over and lids can't be removed.
2. Feed your pets indoors or bring their food and water dishes inside at night
3. Eliminate access to your roof by cutting back tree branches.
4. Cover your chimney with heavy metal or a sheet metal chimney cap.

To arrange for a raccoon to be picked up, call the Cleveland Department of Public Health Division of Environmental Health at 216/664-2300.



Cleveland Department of Public Health

Frank G. Jackson, Mayor Matt Carroll, Director

Providing a safe and healthy environment for all Clevelanders.

Getting them off of your property and out of your home



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What to know about Raccoons

Raccoons breed from February to April with a gestation period of about nine weeks. An average of two to six young are born in chimneys, tree hollow, logs or other protected dens. The young remain with the female until fall and may den with her through the winter. Normally, a raccoon may roam one or two miles from its main den to hunt for food.

Raccoons go into partial hibernation in winter, either alone or in groups, but they become active during warm spells and thaws.

Raccoons are smart, curious and excellent climbers and will adapt and take advantage of their surroundings.

Raccoons can remove shingles and fascia boards to take up residence in the attic and wall space.

Raccoons are omnivorous, they eat fish, insects, small mammals, fruit, berries and corn. **Raccoons** will seek out the easiest meal-which could be your garden, pet food dish or garbage cans. They will also eat eggs and birds.



You may not see them but you can identify **raccoons** activity by their distinctive footprint. Often, only the front of the rear foot pad and the long, slender toes will show and the heel will not be visible except in soft mud, sand or snow.



If **raccoons** are going through your garbage, make it unreachable and buy a raccoon-proof garbage can, or by putting a weight on the lid so raccoons can't open it.

If **raccoons** are already living in your home, there are measures you can take to get them out. Raccoons do not like bright lights or loud noises:

- Put bright lights in your attic and if you have any kind of flashing lights, use them.
- Put a radio in the attic and tune into a rock or talk station, with the volume set as loud as you can stand it. Leave it on all day and night.

Remember Raccoons will come back if you let them.