

## Grey Squirrel

### Profile/Characteristics

The grey squirrel was introduced to the UK from the USA between 1876 and 1929 and is now commonly found.

Although known as the grey squirrel, in summer the coat may become brown. It is however easily distinguishable from the red squirrel by the lack of large ear tufts.

The average life span of the grey squirrel is 2 years and they are sexually mature at between 10 and 12 months. In optimum conditions, during the course of one year, a female will produce 3 or 4 litters containing between 1 and 8 young.

The grey squirrels' diet is extensive. They will eat acorns, beech mast, tree shoots, flowers, nuts, fruit, roots, and cereals. They will strip bark to get to sappy tissues underneath, causing considerable damage to trees. Occasionally they have been known to eat insects and bird eggs.

When food supplies are plentiful the squirrel will hoard surplus nuts, masts and cones.

### Where To Find Squirrels

Whilst in their natural outdoor habitat, they are perceived by most as an attractive wild animal.

Tolerance levels dramatically change once they take up residence within domestic properties. It is at this stage that the grey squirrel is considered to be a pest species.



### Problems Caused By Squirrels

Once in roof spaces the grey squirrel can and often does cause damage to roof timbers, electrical wiring and plumbing through its gnawing activities. It can also cause quite a lot of noise disturbance to occupiers.

### How to Control Squirrels

You may be able to resolve the problem yourself if a systematic approach is adopted.

Firstly you need to establish where the squirrel is gaining entry to the property. Bear in mind the entry point may be on a neighbour's property. If this is the case you will need to enlist the help of your neighbour to resolve the issue.

The entry point will need to be blocked when the squirrel is out of the building, to prevent it from gaining further access.

The easiest way to achieve this control is to monitor the squirrel's activity and undertake proofing work when the animal leaves the roof space to feed outdoors.

We provide a pest control service for the treatment of grey squirrels within buildings. Please contact us for further information on treatments and current charges.