



MAINE HOMEOWNER GUIDE

Burrowing Wildlife & Trenching

For skunks, groundhogs, and other animals using spaces beneath decks, sheds, porches, slabs, or foundations.

Animals under a structure often use an existing open edge or digging route. The durable solution is to resolve the current occupant and make the perimeter difficult to re-enter.

1 Identify	2 Check young	3 Evict/remove	4 Install barrier	5 Monitor
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Identify before closing

MDIFW recommends confirming the species, active access point, and whether young are present before eviction. Closing a den with animals inside can make the problem worse.

How exclusion works

Depending on the site, an animal may be removed, encouraged to leave, or directed through a one-way system. Once clear, vulnerable edges can be reinforced with durable screening or buried exclusion material.

Why trenching helps

A below-grade barrier addresses digging access instead of only blocking the visible surface opening. Corners, grade changes, stairs, decks and utility areas often need special attention.

Prevention

Remove food attractants, secure garbage and pet food, and keep vegetation/debris from creating sheltered travel routes around the structure.

Removal. Repair. Prevention.
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Sources: Maine IF&W;; Evicting Animals From Buildings; How to Avoid Wildlife Conflicts.
Educational summary current Sept. 2026. Wildlife laws, seasons and agency guidance can change; site-specific conditions control.