



MAINE HOMEOWNER GUIDE

Bat Exclusion

How bats are removed from a structure without trapping the colony - and why the time of year matters.

Bats are normally resolved through **one-way exclusion**: active exits are fitted so bats can leave, secondary openings are sealed, and final exits are closed after activity has cleared.

1	2	3	4	5
Inspect	Seal gaps	One-way exit	Allow time	Final seal

Why not just seal the hole?

Closing an active exit too soon can trap bats - including flightless young - inside. Maine IF&W; recommends exclusion rather than trapping and relocating bats.

Maine timing

Approx. May 15-Aug. 15: avoid colony exclusion during the maternity period. **June and July:** Maine specifically restricts exclusion from unoccupied buildings. **Mid-Aug.-mid-Oct.:** preferred fall exclusion window. Late fall/winter work requires care because bats may be hibernating.

What Turcotte's does

Inspect accessible areas, identify active exits and secondary gaps, install one-way devices, seal other openings, allow time for bats to leave, then remove devices and complete the final seal and included repairs.

Living-space bat?

If a possible human exposure occurred - bite, scratch, bare-hand contact, waking with a bat in the room, or a bat with a young child/person unable to reliably report contact - do not simply release it. Maine CDC: **1-800-821-5821**.

Removal. Repair. Prevention.
207-576-3827 | kaileb@turcotteswildlife.com
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Sources: Maine IF&W; Bats / Evicting Animals From Buildings; Maine CDC rabies guidance. Educational summary current Sept. 2026. Wildlife laws, seasons and agency guidance can change; site-specific conditions control.



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Wildlife Trapping & Removal

When trapping or hands-on removal is the appropriate tool for a nuisance-wildlife problem.

Trapping is only one tool. First identify the animal, how it is using the property, whether dependent young may be present, and whether removal, eviction, exclusion, or another lawful method best fits the situation.

1 Identify	2 Plan	3 Remove/evict	4 Confirm clear	5 Prevent return
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Maine rules matter

Maine trapping seasons and methods are regulated, and animal-damage-control provisions may apply outside ordinary recreational trapping. Certified ADC agents are expected to use preventive and proactive measures within their authorized categories.

The Turcotte process

Our process is **Evaluate -> Remove -> Exclude -> Restore**. When trapping is appropriate, the

Young animals change the plan

MDIFW says the species, entry point, and presence of young should be determined before eviction. Separating a mother from dependent young can create welfare problems and additional property damage.

Removal is not prevention

Taking one animal away does not close an opening or remove an attractant. Long-term control usually means correcting access, food, shelter, or structural conditions afterward.

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Sources: Maine IF&W; ADC program, Trapping Laws & Rules, Evicting Animals From Buildings.
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Squirrel Exclusion

Why attic squirrels are usually a building-entry problem - not just an animal-removal problem.

Squirrels can gnaw openings, nest in insulation, and damage wiring. MDIFW notes that removal alone is not a permanent solution because another squirrel can occupy the same access point.

1	2	3	4	5
Find entry	Check young	Secure gaps	Evict/remove	Repair

What we look for

Chewed fascia or soffits, roof-edge gaps, gable/attic vents, chimney areas, utility penetrations, nesting material, disturbed insulation and other roof-access routes.

The exclusion approach

Once the active route and family status are understood, secondary openings can be secured and an appropriate one-way strategy used when conditions allow. MDIFW says one-way doors can be effective for squirrels and other above-ground animals.

Dependent young

A one-way door should not be used if it would strand young inside. MDIFW specifically advises checking for young before evicting the adult.

Prevention after removal

Rotten boards and vulnerable openings should be repaired. MDIFW also recommends closing eaves, capping chimneys where appropriate, and trimming branches that provide easy roof access.

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Sources: Maine IF&W;; Species-Specific Tips - Squirrels; Evicting Animals From Buildings.
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Raccoon Removal & Exclusion

A raccoon in an attic, chimney, garage, or structure requires attention to both the animal and the den site.

A complete raccoon plan considers the active entry, possible young, contamination, attractants, and the repair needed after the animal is gone.

1	2	3	4	5
Evaluate den	Check young	Remove/evict	Clean safely	Seal & repair

Family groups matter

Female raccoons may den with young. MDIFW warns against separating a mother from dependent young and recommends identifying whether young are present before eviction.

Health considerations

Raccoons can carry rabies, and raccoon feces can contain *Baylisascaris* roundworm eggs. CDC advises avoiding contact with raccoon feces and taking precautions during latrine cleanup.

What Turcotte's does

Evaluate the den/entry area, determine an appropriate lawful removal or eviction method, confirm the structure is clear, then address the access point and related damage included in the scope.

Reduce repeat activity

Secure garbage, remove outdoor food sources, close access to attics/basements, and address water or shelter that may be attracting raccoons.

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Sources: Maine IF&W;; Raccoon / Evicting Animals; CDC: Preventing Raccoon Roundworm.
Educational summary current Sept. 2026. Wildlife laws, seasons and agency guidance can change; site-specific conditions control.



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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.

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Sources: Maine IF&W;; Evicting Animals From Buildings; How to Avoid Wildlife Conflicts.
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Structural Exclusion & Repairs

The part of wildlife control that turns a temporary removal into a longer-term solution.

Wildlife problems often begin with a building opening. Turcotte's process identifies the intrusion, resolves the occupant, installs exclusion systems, and restores affected areas within the agreed scope.

1	2	3	4	5
Inspect	Map openings	Resolve animal	Seal & repair	Verify

What gets inspected

Roof intersections, ridge/roof vents, soffits, fascia, gable vents, flashing, chimneys, siding/trim, foundation gaps, utility penetrations, garage seals and other construction transitions.

Why whole-structure thinking matters

MDIFW notes that animals may use more than one opening and that entry holes can be smaller than expected. Fixing only the most obvious hole can leave another route available.

Materials and repairs

The method depends on the opening and construction. Appropriate screening, hardware cloth, flashing, vent protection, sealants, carpentry or other durable materials may be used as included in the scope.

The Turcotte approach

Removal. Repair. Prevention. The objective is to solve the active wildlife issue while correcting the physical condition that allowed access.

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Sources: Turcotte's Wildlife Removal Services website; Maine IF&W;; Evicting Animals / Conflict Prevention.
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Attic & Crawl Space Cleanup

What happens after wildlife is gone and damaged or contaminated materials are left behind.

Cleanup should follow wildlife control - not replace it. Entry points should be addressed first so a cleaned space is not left vulnerable to repeat activity.

1	2	3	4	5
Stop entry	Assess	Protect area	Remove material	Restore

What may be present

Droppings, nesting material, odors, displaced or soiled insulation, damaged ventilation materials and debris can remain after wildlife activity.

Why dust control matters

CDC/NIOSH warns that disturbing material containing bird or bat droppings can aerosolize dust associated with Histoplasma exposure. Dry sweeping/shoveling dusty accumulations should be avoided; HEPA-filtered collection and dust-control methods may be appropriate.

Raccoon contamination

CDC notes that raccoon feces can contain roundworm eggs. Cleanup methods differ from ordinary household cleaning, and chemicals alone do not reliably destroy the eggs.

Scope depends on conditions

Some spaces need localized removal; others may require more extensive material removal, cleanup, repair, or insulation work. Recommendations should be based on what is actually found.

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Sources: Turcotte's Attic & Crawl Space page; CDC/NIOSH Histoplasmosis; CDC Raccoon Roundworm. Educational summary current Sept. 2026. Wildlife laws, seasons and agency guidance can change; site-specific conditions control.



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Bird Exclusion & Prevention

Building bird problems can involve nests, roosting, droppings, and federal protections - so species and nest status matter.

Bird work starts by identifying the species, whether birds are inside or outside the building, and whether an active nest, eggs, or young are present.

1	2	3	4	5
Identify	Check nest	Resolve lawfully	Exclude access	Clean safely

Federal protections apply

Many native birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Rules differ by species and circumstance, so active nests should not be disturbed casually.

Birds inside buildings

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service regulations authorize prompt removal of migratory birds - including nests, eggs and nestlings - from the **interior** of buildings under specified conditions when they disrupt normal use, create health/safety risks, damage property, or risk becoming trapped.

Prevention methods

Once lawful and appropriate, openings can be closed and roosting/nesting access reduced with structural exclusion or mechanical deterrents suited to the site.

Droppings and cleanup

CDC/NIOSH recommends controlling dust when bird or bat droppings are disturbed and notes that large accumulations may warrant specialized professional cleanup.

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Sources: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Migratory Bird Permits / Birds in Buildings; CDC/NIOSH Histoplasmosis. Educational summary current Sept. 2026. Wildlife laws, seasons and agency guidance can change; site-specific conditions control.