



MAINE HOMEOWNER GUIDE

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.

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