

## Other Small Mammal Pests

(Squirrels, Moles, Bats)



There are 7 species of **squirrels** found in Washington State, some that are ground dwellers (making burrows) and some that are tree dwellers (making nests in trees). While they may seem “cute,” they can be a true pest. They can move into crawl spaces and attics, chew electrical wires, undermine pathways with burrows and spread disease. **Things that may help prevent squirrels:** Remove foods that are attracting them (such as bird feeders), trim tree branches that may overhang roof line, remove firewood stacked against building, repair broken vents and screens into attic and roof areas. The only way to remove unwanted squirrels is through live trapping. Squirrels may live up to 12 years, so it may be worth considering calling a wildlife company if they are a major problem. One such company is Critter Control, in Seattle (206) 431 6833 and in Spokane (509) 443 6757. For a list of interesting questions and facts about squirrels click on [www.squirrels.org/faq.html](http://www.squirrels.org/faq.html).



**Moles** have broad feet and claws for digging and spend almost all of their life underground. They eat worms and grubs. There are 3 species in Washington State. All live in established burrow systems and are mostly solitary. There is rarely more than one or two moles in an average yard. They usually aren't seen and only come to the surface at night. They may live up to six years. One effective way known to eliminate moles is trapping, however, Initiative 713 in Washington State requires a special permit from the Fish and Wildlife for the use of “body gripping” traps. **We have two products available for “do-it-yourself.” See our QuickSolutions section under moles.**



**Bats** are a concern because of the droppings (guano) and possibility of rabies. The droppings are corrosive and can pose a biohazardous risk. The best way to keep bats out of a home is by having screens on open doors and windows and by sealing small openings. The following link to Seattle/King County Health Department has good information ([www.metrokc.gov/health/prevcont/bats.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/health/prevcont/bats.htm)) Do not handle live, dead or dying bats. For information on cleaning up rodent droppings see our QuickGuideSolutions under Rodent Cleanup. If bat removal from a building is needed we recommend Critter Control (1-800-Critter).



## Paratex Pest Solutions

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