



When the Raccoons Move In

February 2006



First a simple test:

When raccoons move into your attic you should:

- a) Move, and disclose the problem to the buyer.
- b) Wait until it is dark for the raccoons to leave then seal the entrance.
- c) Feed them nuts, It will keep them from chewing through the rafters.
- d) Play loud music to scare them away.
- e) Call animal control to capture them and take them away.

If you said "b" you are correct. Raccoons look for a place to store food and to keep warm for the winter.

If you have a hole in your roof or siding they will make themselves at home. The insulation makes a warm nest for them. Raccoons sometimes bring other guests with them such as fleas and ticks.

Raccoons will leave the den at night to look for food. This is the best time to seal the hole with a scrap piece of plywood. The cover should be nailed or screwed down. The raccoons will try to tear the plywood off but will not be able to. They may cause a little more damage around the hole in the attempt to remove it. You should wait a week before calling a professional to permanently repair the hole.



A family of three raccoons made themselves at home in the attic of this house. The hole in this roof was the entry point. Please also note that the temporary repair to the electrical service is not the safest.



Raccoons can cause a lot of damage to your home and sometimes bring additional house guests.