

FACT SHEET

Grey Squirrels *Sciurus Carolinensis*



08444 828 321 Local Rate
7p per minute
Peak Time Excludes
Weekend Excludes

03444 828 321 Basic Rate
Mobile Friendly

not 24 hour

SDK Environmental Limited
trading as Dial A Pest
Slough Campus
Unit 9 The Business Village
Wexham Road
Slough SL2 5HF

Full terms and conditions can be found at
www.dialapest.co.uk

As an animal the Grey Squirrel looks very attractive with its bushy tail and grey chestnut coat. In park and garden areas people gain much pleasure from seeing this fairly tame animal close up. However grey squirrels are not native to these shores and The North American grey squirrel to give its full name was deliberately introduced to Britain and other parts of Europe during the 19th Century merely as a curiosity to satisfy the Victorian trend for novelty. Unfortunately no one had the foresight at the time to see how much of an impact this alien species would have on our own native species of wildlife. Since then, the adaptable and hardy grey squirrel has thrived in Britain's parks, gardens and woodlands. It has now become widespread throughout the UK and being larger and more aggressive than its smaller and now much rarer cousin the red squirrel; it has placed red squirrel numbers under serious threat. Under British law grey squirrels are deemed to be a pest species and can be controlled by an authorized person using approved measures.

Damage

The outdoor damage is fairly innocuous to the general public; they damage trees by stripping off the bark, they take fruit from the garden, raid wild birds' nests for eggs and raid bird tables for nuts. Most of the time we tolerate this damage, for the pleasure of seeing squirrels around the garden. However, when they get into the loft of a house they do a great deal of damage indeed. Squirrels are incredible acrobats, and are able to climb up the vertical outside wall of a house by holding on to the pebbledash or to the tiny gaps between bricks and mortar. Once they reach the eaves, they can find their way in through holes left for overflow pipes or loose slates. Once inside they will gnaw wood, pipes, electrical cables and shred insulation. They will also gnaw at any stored valuables in the loft space. In severe cases squirrels will even gnaw through plasterboard and enter upper rooms. Squirrels are not normally dangerous, but a wild one trapped in a loft or cornered will bite very hard indeed.

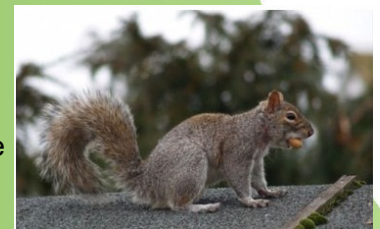


Breeding

In the wild grey squirrels can survive in parkland, copses, and trees, and build their nests (called dreys,) from twigs, leaves and moss. However being increasingly urban in their habits, they will quite happily nest in roof spaces. There are two breeding seasons each year (one in Feb/March and the other in June/July), with 3-7 "kittens" in each litter. Kittens are born with their eyes closed, without teeth and with no hair. After about 7 weeks they look just like small versions of their parents and are ready to leave the drey.

Legal Status

Because squirrels are regarded as pests, it is perfectly legal for householders to employ professionals to remove them. There are very strict laws about how this can be done - mostly to protect other wildlife from accidental harm. Traps must be of a specific type and size. Poison can also be used, but there are legal restrictions on the type of material and how the baits are laid and it is not available in shops for purchase by the general public. You must not use general use rat poison; it is illegal to do so. The job is best left to a professional pest control technician who has access to the proper materials and who has been trained to use them.



Please note however that under the terms of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is illegal for anyone to remove trapped grey squirrels and release them alive in another area. The squirrels must be humanely killed – that is the law.



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Schedule 4

Terms Specific to Rodent Treatments

1. Our Service is to attend your premises, inspect the relevant area and treat the active rodent habitat with the intention of controlling the pest. If it is, in our opinion, appropriate to try to eradicate the pest, we shall do so, but this is often inappropriate and depends on many factors including the location and proximity to other people's property.
2. The price of the Service is for treating a single domestic property (including the immediate gardens and grounds) occupied by one family. An additional fee will be charged if the premises is occupied by more than one family, additional treatments are needed or if any treatments are required in outbuildings, stables or land where domestic pets or livestock are present. However in some situations, due to the safety of the livestock, treatments within these additional areas may not be appropriate and we reserve the right to refuse to treat them. If the price has been pre-paid and we refuse to treat the area, or you decide not to make the additional payment, the amount pre-paid shall be returned to you without charge.
3. The price will depend on which type of pests you wish us to treat. We will only treat squirrels that are inside the premises.
4. Clause 4.3 shall apply to the extent that we, at our absolute discretion, determine necessary, up to a maximum of three visits. In some situations, a single treatment is sufficient and in other cases two or three are needed.
5. Before the first visit and until the final visit, you hereby agree:
 - a. not to move any poisons or tamper with equipment / bait stations;
 - b. not to interfere with our treatment in any way, or try to treat the rodents yourself or allow anyone else to do so;
 - c. to comply with all the instructions we provide (whether in writing or not) including those in relation to tidying the premises and maintaining it in a clean and tidy condition;
 - d. to remove any bird feeders and rectify any defects in the structure of any compost heaps, and you acknowledge that if you fail to comply with any of these requirements, we shall be entitled to stop the treatment, as it will be compromised, and you will still be charged.
6. In compliance with animal welfare requirements, on occasions where humane traps are used in any rodent treatment, you hereby agree to inspect each trap at least twice daily and in the event that a rodent has been caught and has not been killed outright, you must contact us immediately on 03444 828 321. In the event that you are unable to contact us, you must contact a veterinary practice and arrange for a suitably qualified practitioner to visit the property and kill the rodent to avoid unnecessary suffering. SDK will refund to you any fees incurred up to a value of £150 provided that you supply a valid written invoice and report from the vet.
7. Where there is evidence of infestations emanating from private or public sewers or from breaches in soil drains we may require you to obtain specialised inspections or works. We cannot inspect or treat utility company sewers.
8. We will inspect the infected areas and we will treat it if, in our reasonable opinion, it is necessary, practical and safe to do so by installing appropriate traps.
9. The Service does not include the removal of any dead rodent carcasses and we shall not accept any liability for not doing so.
10. We will not create openings or interfere with the structure of your property when treating it is your responsibility to ensure we have suitable access to areas where treatment is required.
11. We may mention a few ways to help reduce the risk of the pests coming back, for which there shall be no additional fee. However, this is not included within the price, we shall not be under any obligation to provide such advice and we shall not accept any responsibility for any such advice we give.
12. We are legally obliged to remove all rodenticides laid at your property when our treatment ends for whatever reason. You shall ensure that we have free access to do this.
13. The service is to treat a single domestic property in single family occupancy and where mice and rats are encountered the appropriate fee for each species will be required.

