

Cleaning a Raccoon Latrine

Raccoon Latrines

The sites where raccoons leave their droppings are called latrines. Raccoons often use the same latrine over and over. Latrines are usually found at the base of trees, in forks of trees, or on raised areas such as fallen logs, stumps, or large rocks. Raccoon latrines can also be found on or around woodpiles, decks, porches, rooftops, attics, fireplaces, garages, and haylofts.

Raccoon Roundworms

Raccoon roundworms (*Baylisascaris procyonis*) are parasites that live in raccoon intestines. Raccoon roundworms lay many tiny eggs that are found in raccoon droppings. The eggs are not visible to the naked eye. If raccoon droppings are not properly cleaned up, the eggs mature in the droppings. Even after raccoon droppings are cleaned up, raccoon roundworm eggs may still be present.

Dangers to Humans and Pets

If accidentally swallowed or inhaled, the raccoon roundworm eggs in raccoon droppings can cause serious illness in humans and pets. Although infections are rare, they can lead to irreversible brain, heart, and eye damage. Raccoon roundworm infections can be fatal. Most infections occur in small children between the ages of 9 months and six years, since they often put objects in their mouths.

Identifying a Raccoon Latrine

Raccoon droppings look like small dog droppings. They are dark in color, have an unpleasant odor, and often contain undigested seeds or other food items. Because latrines are used repeatedly, there are often older, dry droppings mixed with fresh, wet droppings.

Discourage Raccoons from Making a Latrine on your Property

- Do not feed raccoons
- Secure garbage and pet food
- Clear brush and other debris
- Cover children's sandboxes
- Add a low-voltage hot wire at the bottom of your fence
- Cut back branches that overhang your roof
- Repair holes in your home or outbuilding
- Cover vents with heavy metal screening
- Install animal-proof chimney caps
- Install skirting around decks and porches



Before You Start

Always wear protective clothing when cleaning a raccoon latrine!

- Disposable rubber or latex gloves
- Disposable or washable coveralls
- Rubber boots
- NIOSH-Approved Disposable Particulate Respirator that has been fitted to your face

Cleaning an Outdoor Raccoon Latrine

1. Lightly mist the area with water to avoid stirring up dust
2. Gently shovel or scoop droppings into a heavy-duty garbage bag
3. If the latrine is on a pile of wood, dispose of the wood
4. If the latrine is on the ground, remove 2-4" of soil immediately under the droppings and place in heavy-duty garbage bag
5. Close the bag with a twist tie or tape and then put that bag inside a second bag
6. Place bag(s) into trash can
7. Carefully flame the surface soil with a propane torch; turn the soil over with a shovel and re-flame several times
8. Rinse the shovel blade, boots, and other non-disposable clean-up materials with boiling water containing bleach

Cleaning an Indoor Raccoon Latrine

1. Lightly mist the area with water to avoid stirring up dust
2. Gently shovel or scoop droppings into a heavy-duty garbage bag
3. Use hot, soapy water and a damp sponge, mop, paper towels, and/or disposable wipes to wipe up remaining droppings
4. Flush dirty water down the toilet
5. Place sponge, mop head, and all disposable clean-up materials in plastic bag with droppings
6. Close the bag with a twist tie or tape and then put that bag inside a second bag
7. Place bag(s) into trash can
8. Rinse the shovel blade, boots, and other non-disposable clean-up materials with boiling water containing bleach

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Monday-Friday
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