

The grey squirrel's natural home is the oak, hickory and walnut forests of Eastern and North America where its numbers are controlled by owls, foxes and bobcats. It feeds on seeds and nuts (approximately 80g a day) and also eggs, young birds and insects.

Two litters are produced each year in early spring and summer. There are up to seven in a litter, but usually only three or four survive.

The grey squirrel can become a pest if it comes into your home.

- Squirrels can gain access by swinging from nearby trees, or climbing up foliage growing up the side of the house. It is advisory therefore to cut back all trees and foliage close to your house.
- They often come into the loft space through holes in the soffit boards. Wait until the squirrels have gone outside to feed, then block up the holes. It is advisable to repair these holes by nailing a piece of tin over the hole, a biscuit tin lid can often be utilised as the squirrels cannot gnaw through this. It may be necessary to

employ the services of a builder to carry out these works.

- Never poison squirrels in your loft space as they die and cause problems with smells and attract blowflies.
- Do not put out bird food or scraps close to your house as this encourages the squirrels to come into your property.

Squirrels can cause damage by chewing through electrical cabling in your loft space, therefore it is important to:

1. Discourage them.
2. Prevent them gaining access.
3. Deal with them if they do.

These notes are general advice, should you require further advice, please telephone the number mentioned overleaf and ask for Pest Control.

Please note: The Council does not provide a service to eradicate squirrels; unless you are a council tenant and you should then contact your housing manager.

Squirrels

Fact Sheet