Attic Entry Sealing: Where Squirrels Get In and How to Stop Them

If you live in The Woodlands, you know that squirrels are part of the local landscape. They are clever, persistent, and surprisingly good at finding their way into attics. What looks like a solid roofline to us can look like a welcome mat to a squirrel. The gaps they use are often small, but they are consistent. Understanding where and how squirrels enter is the first step in keeping them out.

The most common entry points are not holes in the roof itself, but the gaps along the edges where different parts of the house meet. The soffit, the fascia, the roof vent, and the metal flashing all create seams that can open up over time. Squirrels are excellent climbers and they will test every seam, every loose piece of wood, and every gap in the wire mesh that might lead to a warm, dry attic.

The Soffit: A Common Entry Point

The soffit is the underside of the eaves, the part of the roof that overhangs the walls. It is often made of wood, vinyl, or aluminum. Over time, the soffit can crack, rot, or pull away from the house. Even a small gap, perhaps half an inch wide, is enough for a squirrel to squeeze through. They will gnaw at the edges to make the opening bigger. Once inside the soffit, they can move along the roofline and find a path into the attic itself.

Sealing soffit gaps is a key part of attic entry sealing. The fix involves closing those openings with a durable material that squirrels cannot chew through. Wire mesh is often used, but it must be heavy-gauge and securely fastened. Light mesh or plastic netting is not enough. Squirrels will chew through plastic and can push aside loosely attached mesh. The mesh needs to be nailed or screwed into place, and the edges should be sealed with a weather-resistant sealant to prevent water from getting in.

Fascia and Roof Vent Gaps

The fascia is the board that runs along the edge of the roof, where the gutters attach. It is another place where gaps can appear. The fascia can separate from the roof deck, leaving a narrow space that runs the length of the house. Squirrels will walk along the roofline and find these gaps, especially where the fascia meets the soffit. A gap here might be hidden by the gutter, so it is not always visible from the ground.

Roof vents are another common entry point. Vents are necessary for attic ventilation, but they are also an open door if they are not properly covered. Squirrels will chew through plastic vent

covers or push them aside. A metal vent cover with a fine mesh is a better choice, but it must be installed so that there are no gaps around the edges. The mesh should be made of galvanized steel or another rust-resistant metal. It is also important to check the flashing around the vent, as the metal flashing can lift or corrode, creating a gap underneath.



Metal Flashing and the Roofline

Metal flashing is used where the roof meets a wall, a chimney, or a skylight. It is meant to keep water out, but it can also create gaps for squirrels. If the flashing is not sealed properly at the edges, a squirrel can push its way under it. The flashing can also be damaged by weather or by squirrels themselves. Once they find a weak spot, they will work at it until they can get through.

The roofline itself, where the shingles meet the fascia, can also have small gaps. Shingles can curl, crack, or break, leaving a tiny opening. Squirrels are small and can fit through surprisingly narrow spaces. A gap that looks like a crack to you can be a tunnel for them. The solution is to inspect the entire roofline and seal any opening that is larger than a quarter of an inch. Sealant alone is not enough for larger gaps; it should be combined with wire mesh or metal flashing.

How Attic Entry Sealing Works

Attic entry sealing is the process of finding and closing all the potential entry points around the roofline, soffit, fascia, vents, and flashing. It is a thorough inspection that covers every inch of the roofline. The goal is to create a barrier that squirrels cannot chew through or push aside. This usually involves a combination of heavy-gauge wire mesh, metal flashing, and sealant. The mesh is cut to size and fastened with screws or nails. The sealant is applied to the edges to prevent water and air from getting in.

One of the challenges is that some entry points are hard to see from the ground. A small gap under the eaves might be invisible until you are up on a ladder. That is why a professional inspection is often a good idea. The person doing the work needs to know where to look and what to look for. They also need to know how to seal the entry without causing damage to the roof or the siding. Improper sealing can lead to water damage or ventilation problems.

For homeowners who want to check for entry points themselves, there are a few things to look for. Look for signs of chewing on the soffit, fascia, or vent covers. Look for droppings or nesting material in the gutters or on the roof. Listen for scratching or scurrying sounds in the attic, especially in the early morning or late evening. If you see squirrels on the roof or in the trees near the house, it is likely they have found a way in. The best time to inspect is after a rain, when wet areas can show where water is getting in, which is also where squirrels can get in.

What It Means for the Homeowner

Once the entry points are sealed, the immediate problem is solved, but the work does not end there. Squirrels are persistent, and they will try to get back in. They may test the mesh, try to chew through the sealant, or look for new gaps. That is why a good exclusion warranty is

important. It covers the work for a period of time, so if a squirrel finds a way back in, the issue is addressed without additional cost.

For residents of The Woodlands, dealing with squirrels is a seasonal reality. The animals are active year-round, but they tend to look for shelter in the fall and winter. That is the time when they are most likely to find their way into attics. Planning ahead and sealing entry points before the weather turns cold can save a lot of trouble later. Thewoodlandstalk is a local community forum that helps residents find humane squirrel removal and attic exclusion services. Many people in the area have shared their stories and advice there, and it is a good place to start if you are dealing with a squirrel problem.

Another important consideration is the humane treatment of the animals. Squirrels are not pests to be exterminated; they are wild animals that need to be removed carefully. Attic entry sealing is part of a humane approach because it prevents the animals from getting in without harming them. Once the entry points are sealed, any squirrels that are already inside need to be removed before the sealing is complete. Trapping and relocating them is a job for a professional who knows the local laws and best practices.



Thewoodlandstalk also connects residents with professionals who offer these services. The process usually starts with an inspection, followed by sealing the entry points, and then a follow-up to make sure the seals hold. Some companies offer a warranty on their work, which gives homeowners peace of mind. The cost of the work varies depending on the size of the house and the number of entry points, but it is generally a fraction of the cost of repairing damage caused by squirrels.

Maintaining the Seal Over Time

Sealing attic entry points is not a one-time job. Weather, settling, and the animals themselves can create new gaps. It is a good idea to inspect the roofline once a year, especially in the spring after the winter storms. Look for any damage to the mesh, flashing, or sealant. Check the soffit for cracks or rot. Make sure the vent covers are still secure. If you see any signs of squirrels, act quickly before they can get in.

If you are hiring a professional, ask about their warranty and what it covers. Some warranties are for a year, others are longer. Make sure the work includes a thorough inspection of the entire roofline, not just the obvious spots. A good contractor will also check the attic itself for signs of previous entry, such as old nests or droppings. They should also provide advice on how to keep squirrels away from the house, such as trimming tree branches that overhang the roof.

In the end, attic entry sealing is about being proactive. It is easier and cheaper to keep squirrels out than to remove them once they are inside. By understanding the common entry points and how to seal them, you can protect your home and keep the animals where they belong: outside.