



The common skunk is about the size of a plump house cat. Skunks are not good fighters or runners but possess a strong-smelling gland at the base of their tail. When cornered or bothered, they stamp their front feet in warning and turn to aim their gland at their target.

The powerful oil scent can be ejected for about 10 feet. If left alone they will turn and scamper away. Skunks, as well as most wildlife, stay in certain geographical areas as long as the three life sustaining elements are present: food, water, and shelter. Without these three items, skunks will not remain. Skunks eat a variety of food. In spring and summer, they eat fruits, berries, eggs, all kinds of insects, small rodents, and reptiles. In winter they dig small insects and rodents out of the ground. Their digging leaves little cone-shaped holds. They usually live in underground borrows which they may dig if the ground is soft. Otherwise, they live in hollow logs, rock piles and under houses. Skunks are nocturnal and are rarely seen during daylight hours.

The following steps should be taken to discourage skunk activity around your property:

Cover trash containers

Don't leave plastic trash bags outside

Eliminate garbage, debris, lumber piles, etc.

**Check fencing and eliminate access points.
Seal house and decking foundations**

**Clean dense vegetation and thin out the lower
18 inches of landscaping shrubbery**

**Scattering mothballs and ammonia-soaked
cloths serve as repellants, but are only
temporary**