

# SQUIRREL HOUSE



Squirrels live in various forests, especially those with nut trees, and prefer hardwoods and mixed woods. The squirrel is a year-round resident seen mostly in the morning and evening in the yard. Most squirrels feed primarily on nuts, especially hickory nuts, acorns, beech nuts and walnuts. They also favor fruit, maple seeds, tulip tree seeds, and corn.

The squirrel's habit of burying nuts makes them a good propagator of many trees. They do not bury their supply in one place and instead spread them around the ground. Squirrels can even smell a nut buried under a foot of snow in the winter. Squirrels frequently nest in old woodpecker holes, as do many birds, as well as in natural cavities that are part of standing dead trees. They may also create a large, ragged nest of leaves 12" to 16" across; these nests are called "dreys" and may be noticeably high in the trees in colder months when bark is bare. A smaller, flatter nest of leaves may be made in the summer.

A typical litter of 3 to 4 baby squirrels is born in the spring, with a second litter coming sometime later in the summer. Mother squirrels often move their babies from one nest to another, and since squirrels do not mate for life, the father leaves the mother and babies after mating.

# MOUNTING YOUR SQUIRREL HOUSE

1. Simply put a nail or screw into a post or tree leaving 1/4" of its head sticking out.
2. Place the metal hanger over the nail or screw to place the house against the post or tree.
3. Put another nail or screw through the pre-drilled hole at the bottom of the rear panel and into the tree or post in order to fasten the house securely.
4. Should you wish to paint or stain, it is critical to only use water-based stain or paint. Oil-based paints and stains are toxic to squirrels. A light, seasonal, external coating of boiled linseed oil is a highly effective non-toxic preservative.



**HANDCRAFTED IN MISSOURI** 

**Your purchase provides dignified employment for people with disabilities.**

Coveside Conservation Products makes a birdhouse for every cavity nesting species of bird in North America, as well as bird feeders and habitats for bats, butterflies and other wildlife. For more information about our products visit

[www.coveside.com](http://www.coveside.com)

Entire contents copyright 2023 Coveside Conservation Products.

Illustration by Libby Teller.

No portion may be reproduced without permission.

**BVC-BROCHURE-20000**