GENERAL

how to get rid of lizards

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How to Get Rid of Lizards: A Complete Guide to Safe, Humane, and Effective Lizard Removal

Ever walked into a sunny kitchen or a cozy living room only to be greeted by a sudden, scuttling lizard? While many people appreciate these small, harmless reptiles, their unexpected appearance can be unsettling—especially if you're dealing with a sudden infestation. Whether you're a homeowner, a renter, or a pet owner, understanding the best ways to get rid of lizards—and keep them from returning—can bring peace of mind and a cleaner, safer environment. This guide will walk you through every step of lizard removal, from identifying the species and spotting their entry points to using natural deterrents, sealing gaps, and, when necessary, calling in professionals. We'll also cover how to prevent future visits so you can enjoy a lizard free home for good.

Why Lizards Show Up in Your Home

Before you can effectively eliminate lizards, it's essential to understand why they're attracted to your living space in the first place. Lizards are opportunistic creatures that thrive on food, shelter, and warmth. Several common factors can lure them inside:

- Food Sources: Insects such as flies, mosquitoes, and ants are the primary diet for most house lizards. A pantry full of crumbs or a garbage area that's not sealed can provide an irresistible feast.
- Water Availability: A leaking faucet, a dripping shower, or even a small puddle left unattended can create a water source that lizards find appealing.
- Shelter and Hiding Spots: Cracks in walls, gaps under doors, or unused storage spaces offer perfect hiding places for lizards to rest during the day.
- Temperature and Light: Lizards love warm, sunny spots. A sunny window or a heat source can attract them to your home.

Once a lizard enters, it may stay to hunt insects, bask in the sun, or simply use your house as a safe haven. Understanding these motivations is the first step in developing a comprehensive removal strategy.

Assessing the Situation: Are You Dealing With a Single Visitor or an Infestation?

Occasional lizards are usually harmless and may even help control pests. However, a persistent presence—especially a growing number of lizards—can indicate an infestation. Signs of an infestation include:

- Multiple lizards seen at different times of day.
- Evidence of nesting, such as shed skins or egg cases.
- Increased insect activity that lizards are feeding on.
- Visible damage or droppings in hidden corners.

If you suspect an infestation, it's time to move from reactive measures to a systematic removal plan.

Step 1: Clean Up and Remove Attractants

Eliminating the reasons lizards find your home appealing is the most effective long term solution. Here's how to do it:

Eliminate Food Sources

1. Store Food Properly: Keep all food, especially pet food, in sealed containers or refrigerators.
2. Clean Up Spills Promptly: Wipe down counters, sweep crumbs, and avoid leaving food out overnight.
3. Manage Insect Populations: Use natural insect repellents, keep windows and doors closed, and consider installing screens.

Control Water Sources

1. Fix Leaks: Repair dripping faucets, showerheads, and any other water leaking fixtures.
2. Drain Puddles: Keep gutters clear and avoid standing water near windows or doors.
3. Use Dehumidifiers: In humid climates, a dehumidifier can reduce moisture levels that attract lizards.

Reduce Sheltering Options

1. Seal Cracks and Gaps: Use caulk or weatherstripping around windows, doors, and foundation cracks.
2. Organize Storage Areas: Keep storage spaces tidy and store items in sealed containers.
3. Trim Overgrown Vegetation: Remove shrubs and foliage that are close to your home's exterior walls.

Step 2: Seal Entry Points

Once you've removed attractants, the next critical step is to physically block lizards from entering. Here's how:

- Inspect the Exterior: Walk around your home and look for any openings larger than a quarter inch (about 6 /mm).
- Use Caulk and Weatherstripping: Apply silicone or expanding foam to seal gaps around windows, doors, and utility lines.
- Install Door Sweeps: Attach sweeps to the bottom of exterior doors to block gaps.
- Repair Screens: Fix torn or missing window and door screens.
- Secure Chimney Flues: Ensure chimney flues have proper screens to prevent lizards from entering.

By sealing these entry points, you reduce the chances that new lizards will slip inside while you're working on removal.

Step 3: Use Natural Deterrents

Many homeowners prefer eco friendly methods that are safe for pets and children. Below are proven natural deterrents that can discourage lizards from lingering.

Essential Oil Repellents

- Peppermint Oil: Mix 10–15 drops of peppermint oil with a cup of water and spray around windows, doors, and entry points.
- Eucalyptus Oil: Similar to peppermint, eucalyptus has a strong scent that lizards dislike.
- Tea Tree Oil: Known for its insecticidal properties, it can also deter lizards.

Herb-Based Repellents

- Chamomile: Place dried chamomile flowers in corners or under cabinets.
- Lavender: Use sachets of dried lavender or essential oil to mask warm spots.
- Rosemary: The strong scent can deter lizards from staying near windowsills.

Physical Barriers

- Sticky Tape: Place double sided tape along baseboards or under doors. Lizards cannot cross the sticky

surface.

- Mesh Screens: Install fine mesh screens on vents, windows, and other openings.
- Wooden Planks: Use small wooden planks to create a barrier between the lizard and the wall.

Step 4: Capture and Release (If Desired)

For those who wish to avoid lethal methods, live trapping is an option. This approach allows you to relocate the lizard to a more suitable environment. Follow these steps:

1. Choose a Humane Trap: Use a small live capture cage with a one way door.
2. Place the Trap: Position it near a lizard's known path, such as a doorway or under a window.
3. Check Frequently: Inspect the trap every 30 minutes to avoid stressing the animal.
4. Release Properly: Release the lizard at least 2–3 miles away from your home, in a natural setting with plenty of insects.

Always handle live traps carefully and wear gloves to protect yourself from bites or scratches.

Step 5: Professional Pest Control

If your efforts don't yield results, it may be time to enlist a licensed pest control professional. These experts can:

- Conduct a thorough inspection to locate hidden entry points.
- Apply safe, targeted treatments that deter lizards without harming pets.
- Provide long term monitoring plans to prevent future infestations.

When choosing a professional, look for certifications such as the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) and read reviews to ensure quality service.

Prevention: Keeping Lizards Out Forever

Once you've successfully removed lizards, the final goal is to keep them from returning. Here are long term prevention strategies:

Maintain a Clean Environment

- Regularly vacuum and sweep to eliminate insect prey.
- Store food in sealed containers and clean up crumbs immediately.

Seal and Repair

- Reapply caulk around windows and doors annually.
- Inspect foundation cracks and seal them promptly.

Control Outdoor Attractants

- Keep trash cans sealed and placed away from the house.
- Trim vegetation and maintain a clear buffer zone around the building.
- Install motion activated lights to deter nocturnal insects, which lizards feed on.

Use Safe Repellents Regularly

- Reapply essential oil sprays every two weeks during warmer months.
- Replace sachets of dried herbs monthly.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can lizards be dangerous to humans or pets?

Most house lizards are harmless and pose no threat. However, they can carry bacteria from their skin, so it's wise to wash hands after handling them. If you have pets that might ingest lizards, consider additional precautions.

Should I kill lizards if I find them inside?

It depends on your personal preference and local wildlife regulations. Many lizards are beneficial for controlling insect populations. If you're uncomfortable with live trapping, using natural deterrents or professional services is a humane alternative.

Will sealing entry points kill existing lizards inside?

No. Sealing entry points prevents new lizards from entering but doesn't eliminate those already inside. For existing lizards, use live traps or natural deterrents.

How long does it take to get rid of lizards?

Time varies based on the severity of the infestation, the effectiveness of your methods, and local environmental factors. Minor infestations can be resolved within a week, while larger ones may require several weeks of consistent effort.

Are there any health risks associated with lizard droppings?

Lizard droppings can carry pathogens, so it's best to clean them up with gloves and disinfect the area. Use a mild bleach solution or a commercial disinfectant to reduce bacterial presence.

Conclusion

Getting rid of lizards and preventing their return doesn't have to be a daunting task. By combining thorough cleaning, sealing potential entry points, employing natural deterrents, and, if necessary, seeking professional help, you can reclaim your space safely and humanely. Remember that lizards are often beneficial insects in their own right, so consider a balanced approach that protects your home while respecting local wildlife. With persistence and the right tools, you'll enjoy a lizard free environment—and the peace of mind that comes with it.

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