



# Pest Prevention

## A Property Standards Perspective

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# Critters are everywhere

Its how we learn to live with them, and prevent them from making our house their home



# You may not get the visitors you want



# Where and what are the attractants?



# Prevention is Key



- Do a walk around your property
- See what needs to be cleaned up, or stacked properly
- Recycle any items that can be
- Fill in holes around decks and sheds
- Hang gardening tools and items in the shed if possible
- Keep soil and other items for gardening in sealed containers
- Ensure there are no items left lying around that can hold water. This includes pails, planters, old tires, cans
- Discard old furniture properly
- Clean out window wells and ensure all exposed ground pipes, vents including cold room vents are covered properly



# The Simple Things

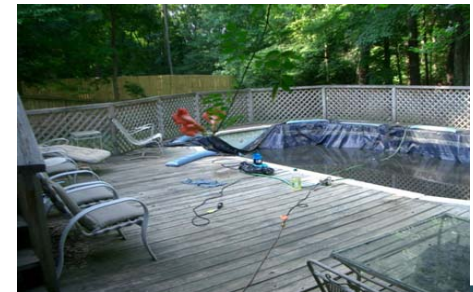
- Keeping your lawn cut
- Ensure your plants are kept trimmed
- Storing recycling and green bins in an area critters can not get to
- Any wood for fireplaces should be stacked properly and not left in a pile
- Clean up after your pets daily. The food particles in the stool are a food source
- Ensure garbage gets put out for proper pick up





# Common Attractants

- Ponds
- Pools
- Pool heaters-check your sheds for available entrance and exit points
- Compost bins-keep them maintained
- Recycling containers
- Hot tubs/soft tubs
- Bird Feeders-seed gets knocked to the ground for a nice buffet
- Fruit Trees-pick up all discarded/rotten fruit
- Access to porches and decks, critters burrow and make homes
- Organic material such as cut branches/shrubs, piles of soil, neglected gardens



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# What does the city deal with?

- The city deals with property standards complaints. There are limitations and what may be an issue for a neighbour, is not necessarily a contravention of the by-law.
- The inside of a carport, shed or garage is not subject to the property standards by-law
- Items that would normally be found on a property, such as lawn furniture and play equipment are permitted
- The city works with residents to come into compliance, charges and Property Standards Orders are not automatic



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# What can you do?

- Do a regular walk around your property
- Identify any areas that may harbor animals
- Know the days of recycling, garbage and green bin pick up in your area
- Contact the Region of Durham for information on special item pick ups
- Help your neighbours
- After a storm, do a walk around your property to pick up any debris
- Educate yourself and your neighbours on preventing critters from sticking around
- If you plan on going away, get help with the property while you are away
- Ensure all garbage and recycling is put away before you leave
- Keep your BBQ clean, free of food debris and grease

# What else can you do?

- Create a list of items that need to be addressed on your property and start fixing them. This includes proper meshing at the bottom of the deck (1/2 inch X 1/2 inch mesh), holes in the foundation of the house or shed etc.
- Ensure sheds and other storage containers aren't overflowing with stuff. Make sure they are well organized, sealed and enclosed properly
- Contact a reputable wildlife company to help you assess your needs and assist you if required
- Visit the Ministry of Natural Resources for additional tips  
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/feeding-wildlife-dos-and-donts>



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# Contacts

City of Pickering Customer Care: 905-683-7575, 1-866-683-2760

Ministry of Natural Resources: 1-800-667-1940

AAA Gates Wildlife: 416-750-9453

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# Trevor De Cristofaro, CPSO

Municipal Law Enforcement Officer

Corporate Services

T. 905.420.4660 ext. 2037

[tdecristofaro@pickering.ca](mailto:tdecristofaro@pickering.ca)