

POSSUM CONTROL



“To provide an **environmentally focused** pest management service that exceeds customers’ expectations”



“POSSUMS ARE **PROTECTED** UNDER THE SA PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT (1972) AND MUST NOT BE HARMED OR REMOVED WITHOUT OBTAINING A **PERMIT TO DO SO.**”

POSSUMS IN OUR ENVIRONMENT

Possoms are nocturnal marsupials that have adapted well in the face of urban development. Due to the clearing of trees they have lost their homes and natural nesting sites forcing them to stake claim to roofs and cavities in and around buildings. This causes damage to insulation and electrics whilst their droppings and urine can cause hygiene problems and staining of ceilings. **Possoms are protected under the SA Parks and Wildlife Act (1972) and must not be harmed or removed without obtaining a permit to do so.** Releasing possums more than 50 metres from the trapping site is not only illegal but also inhumane. Studies have shown that relocated possums often suffer a violent death due to predators and competition for nesting sites. Some also fall victim to road kill whilst trying to make their way back to where they came from. If caught relocating possums you can be prosecuted and fined under the Act.

INTERESTING FACTS ON POSSUMS

There are two types of possums found in urban areas: the **Brushtail** and the **Ringtail Possums**. The **Brushtail Possum** is the most common and causes the most problems in buildings and surrounds. They are the size of a cat with large pointed ears, grey fur and a bushy black tail. Brushtail possums have a single young born in Autumn or Spring. Their young spends around six months in the pouch and one or two months riding on its mother's back until it is weaned. It leaves the maternal den when it reaches around 1 1/2 years of age. Their diet consists mainly of fruit but they are also known to eat a wide variety of vegetation as well as fungi, birds' eggs and baby birds. The **Ringtail Possum** is the smaller of the two, about half the size of a cat, and is rarely seen. They have rounded ears, grey back with rusty coloured sides and a curled tail with a white tip. They have one to three young, mostly twins born during Autumn or Winter. They rarely enter house roofs choosing to build nests, consisting of leaves and twigs, several metres off the ground. Their diet consists of mainly fruit but they are also known to eat a wide variety of vegetation.

POSSUM CONTROL

Our service is designed to provide a cost effective, thorough solution for removing possums from your roof space and possum proofing your home whilst allowing the possums to live in their natural habitat and territories. The first step is

to inspect your home to identify entry points and deficiencies that allow possums to enter. Sealing off these entry points with possum proof materials such as galvanised tin and mesh is imperative to ensure that possums do not gnaw or chew their way back into your roof space. Where possible we will temporarily install a one way exit door around the main entry points. This allows possums to exit your roof space without re-entering. The majority of the possums should exit in the first few nights after the installation of the one way exit. If the noise persists inside the roof after three to four days please contact us immediately as there may be possums trapped in the roof space. We would expect that the door would remain in place for four to six weeks depending on the severity of the situation. In some situations it may not be possible to install a one way exit due to the position of the possum's entry points. If this is the case then we seal all entry points and place cages in the roof space to remove the possums. These possums are then released in your yard. We can also supply and install nesting boxes to provide an alternative home for the possums which may discourage them from attempting to re-enter your roof space. We recommend you cut back any trees, overhanging branches and bridging points to the roof space. This will deter possums from accessing your roof.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER YOUR SERVICE

As the possums are accustomed to nesting in your roof space it is expected that they will attempt to re-enter months after they have vacated. Possums are highly territorial and therefore you may hear them running on top of the roof from time to time after our service. It is unrealistic to expect that possums can be completely removed from the external of your property and surrounds. Every attempt is made to proof entry points and vulnerable areas that may allow possums easy access to the roof space. However due to the persistence and ability of possums to chew and gnaw on timber and other susceptible materials they may gain entry to your roof several months after our service. If this occurs please contact us to discuss further action. It is recommended your roof space be baited for rats on completion of the possum program as in most cases the rat population will increase after possums have vacated.

Please refer to our Rodent Control brochure for more information on our rodent services. For further information and pricing on our Possum Services please contact our office on 8354 0470 or discuss with our Technician at the time of service.



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