What to examine on your roofline after a squirrel visit

When a squirrel finds its way into your attic, the damage is rarely limited to the point of entry. Squirrels are persistent chewers and can squeeze through surprisingly small openings. Once they are inside, they often cause more problems by enlarging gaps or creating new passages. The key to preventing a repeat visit is a thorough check of the entire roofline, not just the spot where they first got in. A careful inspection can reveal weak points that are easy to overlook but simple to address.

Many homeowners focus on the obvious areas, such as loose shingles or a damaged vent. But squirrels are skilled climbers and will explore every inch of the roof. They are particularly drawn to areas where materials meet, such as where the soffit joins the wall or where flashing ends. Understanding what to look for and why each spot matters can help you seal your home effectively and avoid future intrusions.

Start with the soffit

The soffit is the underside of the roof overhang, and it is one of the most common entry points for squirrels. Over time, soffit panels can shift, crack, or rot, leaving gaps that are just big enough for a squirrel to squeeze through. Even a gap that looks small to you can be an invitation for a determined animal. The soffit also hides the area where the roof deck meets the exterior wall, making it a natural pathway for pests.

Inspect each soffit panel carefully. Look for any signs of warping, holes, or sections that no longer sit flush against the wall. If you see daylight through a gap, that is a clear signal that the soffit needs attention. The fix often involves replacing damaged panels and sealing gaps along the roofline with durable materials. This is where soffit repair becomes essential. A proper soffit repair does more than just improve appearance; it closes off a major route for squirrels and other wildlife.

Check the fascia and trim

Fascia boards run along the edge of the roofline where the gutters attach. They are exposed to weather and can rot or pull away from the roof. When fascia boards separate from the roof deck, they create a gap that leads directly into the attic. Squirrels can gnaw through rotted wood easily, so any soft or crumbling section should be replaced, not just patched.

Look for signs of water damage, such as staining or peeling paint, which often indicate that moisture has gotten behind the fascia. Moisture accelerates decay and weakens the structure.

If you find a section that is loose or shows rot, have it repaired promptly. While you are up there, check the trim around dormers and valleys. These are areas where different roof planes meet, and they are common spots for gaps to develop.



Examine roof vents and plumbing stacks

Roof vents are necessary for proper attic ventilation, but they also offer an easy entrance for squirrels. Vents are usually covered with a plastic or metal cap, but those caps can become loose, cracked, or missing. A squirrel can push a vent cap aside or chew through a plastic one. The same goes for plumbing stacks that exit through the roof. The rubber boot around the stack can dry out and split, leaving a hole.

Walk the roofline and inspect every vent and stack. Look for caps that are not securely fastened. If the cap is metal, check for rust or corrosion at the attachment points. For plastic caps, any crack is a potential entry. The best solution is to cover all vents with a heavy-duty wire mesh that is secured with screws or stainless steel straps. Do not rely on caulk alone, as squirrels can chew through it.

Look at metal flashing and valley seams

Metal flashing is used where the roof meets a wall, around chimneys, and in valleys where two roof slopes meet. Flashing is meant to shed water, but it also seals the gap between different building materials. Over time, flashing can pull away from the wall, especially if the sealant underneath has dried and cracked. A gap of even a quarter inch under flashing is large enough for a squirrel to get its teeth in and pry it open further.

Run your hand along the edges of flashing where it meets the wall or chimney. If you feel a space, or if the flashing is loose, the seal is compromised. The repair involves cleaning the area, applying a high-quality sealant, and refastening the flashing. Pay special attention to valley seams, where two pieces of flashing overlap. These seams can lift in high winds, creating a gap that leads straight into the roof structure.

Inspect the chimney cap and cricket

Chimneys are another common entry point. Squirrels can climb up the side of a chimney and enter through the flue if there is no cap. Even with a cap, the area where the chimney meets the roof, called the cricket or the flashing, can develop gaps. A chimney cricket is a small peaked structure behind the chimney that diverts water. The joints between the cricket and the chimney are prone to separation.

Check that the chimney cap is intact and securely fastened. If it is missing or damaged, install a new one with a wire mesh surround. Then examine the flashing around the chimney base. Look for any cracks in the mortar or sealant. Reapply sealant as needed, but ensure the material is compatible with both masonry and metal. A thorough inspection here can prevent not only squirrel entry but also water leaks that lead to costly interior damage.

Don't overlook the ridge vent and gable ends

The ridge vent runs along the peak of the roof. Many modern roofs use a ridge vent system that is covered by shingles. If the vent is damaged or if the shingles have shifted, it can leave a gap at the very top of the roof. Squirrels are excellent climbers and can reach the ridge easily. Check that the ridge vent is fully covered and that no shingles are missing or lifted.

Gable ends, where the roof meets the side wall of the house, are another area to inspect. The siding and the roof trim should meet tightly. If you see a gap, it may be caused by settling or by a previous repair that was not done properly. Use a flashlight to look behind any loose siding. If you find daylight, the area needs sealing. The goal is to create a continuous barrier around the entire roofline so that a squirrel cannot find a single point of entry.



Once you have completed your inspection, the next step is to address any issues you found. This is where **sealing gaps along the roofline** with durable materials becomes critical. For small gaps, use a high-quality sealant that remains flexible in all weather. For larger openings, install metal flashing or heavy-duty wire mesh. Avoid using expanding foam alone, as squirrels can chew through it. The best approach combines physical barriers with proper sealants.

After repairs are done, consider an exclusion warranty from a local wildlife professional. A warranty gives you peace of mind that if a squirrel does find a way back in, the company will

return and fix the new entry point at no extra cost. This is especially valuable in areas like The Woodlands, where squirrels are active year-round. A professional can also perform a full roofline inspection and catch issues you might miss.

Preventing another squirrel intrusion starts with a systematic check of every part of the roofline. By looking at the soffit, fascia, vents, flashing, chimney, and ridge, you can identify and close off potential entry points before a squirrel finds them. The effort you put into a thorough inspection and repair now will save you from the frustration and expense of dealing with another attic invader.