

**INSTALL A CHIMNEY CAP** to block raccoons and bats. Secure it with screws or a metal band to prevent raccoons from prying it off.



**FIX DAMAGED SCREENS IN ROOF VENTS.** Replace the vent cap if you can't critter-proof it.

**LOCATE BIRD FEEDERS** at least 15 ft. from the house. Clean up major birdseed spills to discourage squirrels and mice.

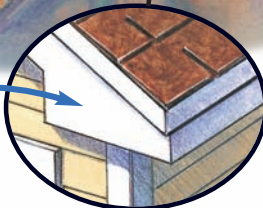
**SEAL AROUND** dryer vents, phone and cable lines, and utility entry points. Also seal any gaps between the foundation and the bottom of the siding. Use paintable acrylic latex caulk.



**TRIM BACK ALL TREES** 8 to 10 ft. from the roof to reduce the chance of squirrels and raccoons jumping from trees to roof.

**TRIM BACK SHRUBS** so they don't touch the house. You'll remove a potential ladder for mice.

**CHECK FASCIA AND SOFFIT** boards for gaps or chewed spots, and replace or patch them to block squirrels from the attic.



**SEAL GAPS IN THE MORTAR** between foundation blocks using mortar or caulk.

**REPLACE THE RUBBER DOOR BOTTOM** of your garage door if it has tears, gaps or other mouse-friendly openings.

**CHECK SCREENS** in gable vents and replace if broken. Caulk any gaps around vent edges.

**KEEP THE WOODPILE AWAY** from the house, not stacked against it. Firewood stored in the garage should be small, very temporary stacks only.

This story is an updated version of a popular article first run in Dec./Jan. '96.