How to Seal Your Soffit and Keep Squirrels Out for Good

Removing squirrels from your attic is only half the battle. Once the animals are gone, the real work begins: closing the gaps that let them in. If you leave even a small opening near the roofline, a new squirrel will find it within days. The most common entry points are damaged soffits, loose fascia boards, and gaps around roof vents. Repairing these areas is what keeps the problem from repeating.

This article walks through the steps to seal your soffit and other vulnerable spots after a squirrel removal. The order matters because some steps protect work you have already done. Each section explains what to look for and what can go wrong if you rush.

Inspect the Full Roofline Before You Start

Begin with a thorough walk around your house. Look at the soffit - the underside of the eaves - from ground level using binoculars if needed. Note every gap, crack, or sagging section. Pay special attention to corners where the soffit meets the fascia board, and to any roof vent that has a gap around its collar. Squirrels can squeeze through a hole the size of a golf ball, so if you can fit your thumb in the gap, a squirrel can fit its whole body.

Also check for signs of chewing. Squirrels gnaw on wood and plastic to enlarge openings. Fresh chew marks mean the animal was actively working on that spot. Old, weathered marks may be from a previous infestation. Either way, the area needs reinforcement.

Remove Loose or Damaged Soffit Panels

If a soffit panel is cracked, warped, or hanging loose, it will not hold a seal. Gently pry off the damaged section using a flat bar. Work from the outer edge to avoid bending the surrounding trim. Set the panel aside and inspect the wooden or metal frame behind it. Look for rot, rust, or extensive gnaw damage. Any structural weakness here will compromise the repair.

If you find rotted wood, the repair is no longer a simple soffit fix. The underlying framing needs replacement before you can install new soffit material. This is a job for a carpenter or a handyman who works on roofline structures. Do not try to patch over soft or crumbly wood; the squirrels will push through it again.



Install Metal Flashing and Wire Mesh at Entry Points

For gaps that are too wide to seal with caulk alone, use a combination of metal flashing and wire mesh. Cut a piece of galvanized steel flashing to overlap the gap by at least two inches on each side. Bend it to match the angle of the soffit or fascia. Secure it with exterior-grade

screws or roofing nails. Then cover the edge with a strip of half-inch wire mesh, stapled into place. The mesh prevents gnawing; the flashing blocks the direct path.

This two-layer approach works better than either material alone. Squirrels can chew through wire mesh if they have enough time, but they rarely bother when a solid metal barrier is behind it. Make sure the mesh is stainless steel or galvanized; standard hardware cloth rusts quickly outdoors.

Seal All Gaps with a Quality Sealant

After the mechanical barriers are in place, seal every remaining seam with an exterior-grade sealant. Use a polyurethane or silicone sealant rated for roofing and siding. Do not use standard window caulk; it dries brittle and cracks under temperature swings. Apply the sealant in a continuous bead, then smooth it with a wet finger or a caulking tool. Pay extra attention to the joints between the soffit and the fascia, and around the base of any roof vent.

Let the sealant cure according to the manufacturer's instructions before you consider the area closed. Most products need 24 to 48 hours. During that time, check the area daily for new activity. If you see a squirrel testing the seal, you may need to add a metal strip over the spot.

Check the Attic from Inside

Go back into the attic with a bright flashlight. Look for any daylight coming through the roofline. Even a thin line of light means a gap that an animal can find. Mark each spot with tape or chalk, then go outside and seal it from the exterior. Sealing from the inside alone leaves the gap open for moisture and pests to enter the soffit cavity itself.

Also check around the chimney chase, plumbing vents, and any electrical conduits that pass through the roof deck. These are common secondary entry points that people overlook after a removal. If the attic has insulation, move it aside gently and look for droppings or nesting material that suggests the animal was using that path.

Consider an Exclusion Warranty for Peace of Mind

Once the soffit repair and sealing are done, the work shifts to prevention. Some homeowners choose to work with a service that offers an exclusion warranty, meaning the company will return and re-seal any spot that a squirrel breaches within a set period. This can be useful if you live in an area with heavy squirrel pressure, or if your roofline has many complex angles.

If you prefer to handle it yourself, keep a log of the materials you used and the date you applied them. Re-inspect every spring and fall. Weather and settling can open new cracks over time. Catching them early keeps the repair from becoming a full repeat job.

For residents of The Woodlands, local advice on humane removal and entry-point sealing is available through Thewoodlandstalk, a community forum where neighbors share recommendations for trusted professionals. Checking that resource can help you find someone who understands the specific squirrel behavior in this area.

Reinforce Roof Vents and Fascia Boards

Roof vents are a favorite target for squirrels. The plastic or metal collars often have gaps where they meet the roof deck. Remove the vent cover if possible, clean the area, and apply a bead of sealant around the base. Then replace the cover and secure it with new screws if the old ones are rusted. For fascia boards that are loose, drive extra screws through the board into the rafter tails. Use coated deck screws that resist corrosion.



If the fascia board has a gap underneath it, slide a piece of metal flashing up behind it before screwing it tight. This creates a physical barrier that the squirrel cannot bypass by squeezing under the board.

Monitor and Maintain the Repair

A good soffit repair can last several years, but it is not permanent. Check the sealed areas after heavy storms or high winds. Look for sealant that has pulled away from the surface, or for mesh that has become dislodged. Also watch for new chew marks on the flashing. Squirrels are persistent, and if they remember the spot, they may test it repeatedly.

If you see signs of testing, reinforce the area with an extra layer of mesh or a larger piece of flashing. Sometimes adding a second material is enough to convince the animal to move on. Do not wait until the squirrel has re-entered the attic. By then, you are back to the beginning of the process.

Keeping squirrels out after a removal is a matter of closing every gap and keeping it closed. The soffit is the most common weak point, but the fascia, roof vents, and flashing all play a role. By working through each area methodically and using durable materials, you can make your home squirrel-proof for the long term. **Thewoodlandstalk** remains a helpful place to ask questions and see what methods have worked for neighbors in similar situations.