

Tick-Proof Your Yard

Habitat Checklist

- Use EPA-registered insect repellent.
- Wear long sleeves, pants, and light-colored clothing.
- Treat outdoor clothing and gear with permethrin or buy pre-treated clothing.
- Check your body and clothes for ticks.
- Shower soon after spending time outdoors.
- Tumble dry clothes on high heat for 10 minutes.

While there are things you can do to help reduce the number of ticks around your home, these are additional steps to prevent tick bites:

Use this checklist to help avoid encountering ticks outside of your home. Remember to stay aware and still always check yourself and your loved ones for ticks upon returning from being outdoors.



Tackle Ticks in Your Yard

A checklist to defend your yard against ticks



Habitat Checklist:

☐ **Clear Your Zone**
Clear your zone of tall grasses and leaf litter around your home. Get rid of leaf litter entirely to ensure it does not stay on the property.

☐ **Mow it Low**
Mow the lawn regularly to enjoy your yard and help prevent ticks from establishing.

☐ **Create Barriers**
Create barriers between yourself and ticks by placing wood chips or gravel at least 3 feet wide to separate wooded areas from backyard. Enjoy outdoor activities in the safer areas.

☐ **Play in Specific Areas**
Keep playground equipment in areas away from trees and edges of the yard where leaf litter may pile up.

☐ **Remove Old Items**
Get rid of old furniture or trash that may attract small animals and rodents that may be carrying ticks.

☐ **Garden Wisely**
Plant some crops that deter deer such as chives, garlic, and fennel to avoid having deer visit your backyard.

☐ **Trim Things Up**
Regularly trim shrubs and large branches to allow more sunlight to enter your yard.

☐ **Consider Fencing**
Fencing can keep deer and other animals from entering your yard and bringing ticks with them.

☐ **Check Your Pets**
Check your pets for ticks daily and after they spend time outdoors. Remove ticks on your pets right away and talk to your veterinarian about year-round tick prevention.

☐ **Keep Wood Dry**
Keep woodpiles in dry areas to lessen the likelihood of ticks surviving in them.

Additional tips:

- *A timely pesticide application in late spring/early summer can reduce the number of ticks in your yard.*
- *Be sure to carefully follow all label instructions to ensure safety and effectiveness, and check with local officials concerning guidelines for pesticide application.*
- *Contact a licensed pest management professional.*
- *Do not rely completely on pesticide treatments as not all ticks may be eliminated, and ticks may return following the application.*



Remember: Ticks are often found in wooded, brushy, and grassy areas.