



How to Get Rid of Voles and Moles

Voles and moles require different removal strategies because they have different diets and behaviors. Here's how to effectively control each pest in your yard

Getting Rid of Voles (Plant-Damaging Rodents)

1. Remove Their Food & Shelter

- Clear mulch, tall grass, and weeds to eliminate hiding spots.
- Keep lawns mowed and trim back overgrown vegetation.

2. Use Repellents

- Castor oil-based sprays and garlic or pepper-based deterrents can discourage voles.
- Predator urine (fox or coyote) can also make them feel unsafe.

3. Trap Them

- Use snap traps or live traps with peanut butter or apple slices as bait.
- Place traps along vole runways and check them regularly.

4. Protect Plants

- Wrap tree trunks with hardware cloth or tree guards to prevent gnawing.
- Install underground wire mesh barriers around garden beds.

5. Consider Natural Predators

- Attract owls, hawks, or outdoor cats to keep vole populations in check.
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How to Get Rid of Moles (Soil-Digging Insectivores)

1. Reduce Their Food Source

- Moles eat earthworms, grubs, and insects, so applying beneficial nematodes or grub-killer products can make your yard less attractive.

2. Use Castor Oil Repellents

- Moles dislike the smell and taste of castor oil-based repellents. Apply to the soil and water it in.

3. Install Barriers

- Place underground hardware cloth (mesh fencing) at least 12 inches deep around gardens and lawns.

4. Trap Them (Most Effective for Moles)

- Use mole-specific traps like harpoon or scissor traps in active tunnels.
- Identify active tunnels by flattening a section and checking if it has raised again in 24 hours.

5. Flood or Disturb Their Tunnels

- Repeatedly watering or collapsing tunnels can drive moles away. However, this method is temporary and may not work long-term.

Which Method Works Best?

- For voles: Trapping and habitat modification are most effective.
- For moles: Trapping is the best long-term solution, while castor oil repellents can help discourage them.

Other Ideas

- Professionals may offer a very effective bait worm (for moles, not voles) that is dropped directly into active feeding tunnels. One such bait worm is called [Tomcat Mole Killer](#) (available at Ace Hardware).

- Recommended baits for vole traps include fresh vegetables, apples, or peanut butter. Place the bait in your trap and position it near vole runways.
- Sometimes mowing the lawn and actively using the lawn can encourage these critters to move on to quieter environments.
- Try using mousetraps at the entrances to the holes with fresh bait as mentioned above.
- [Messinas Granular Mole and Vole Stopper](#) is a humane solution to discouraging both critters.
- Hire a professional.