

The Humane Society of the United States
Urban Wildlife Program Field Office
P.O. Box 3665 Amity Station
New Haven, CT 06525



Lodges with underwater entries and floating food caches resemble nothing more than piles of sticks and branches in the water.

CAN BEAVERS BE DETERRED FROM MOVING IN?

While no method is 100 percent effective at preventing beavers from settling in to suitable new sites, a combination of techniques has worked for many individuals and communities. These include planting less palatable food trees around properties, using protective measures on favored trees in vulnerable locations, and consistently taking down dams as soon as beavers begin building them. Beavers are far less invested in rebuilding a new unfinished dam than in rebuilding a finished older dam that required much more work. For advice on beaver-resistant tree species in your area, contact your local cooperative extension (often found at state universities) or call us at 203-389-4411.

North America's beavers are marvelous animals, and their repopulation of areas once emptied of them is a success story for everyone who appreciates wildlife. The good news is that—with minimal time, effort, and cost—people *can* live with these wild neighbors.



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[Wild Neighbors®: Humane Wildlife Solutionssm]

WE CAN HELP

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) established the Beaver Remedies program in 1997 to help homeowners, municipal leaders, land trusts, and public works and highway departments coexist with beavers. The program offers consulting and tree-wrapping services and installs water flow control devices to stop flooding problems caused by beavers. Beaver Remedies is now a component of Wild Neighbors®: Humane Wildlife Servicessm, a division of The HSUS specializing in professional long-term solutions to urban wildlife issues.

For more information on these and other humane resolutions for conflicts with beavers, fill out and mail the attached card or contact:

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SOLVING CONFLICTS *with* BEAVERS

Celebrating Animals | Confronting Cruelty



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OF THE UNITED STATES

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BEAVERS ARE IMPRESSIVE NATURAL ENGINEERS

who create wetlands out of streams, providing vital habitat for many plant and animal species. Although early European trappers largely eliminated them from much of North America, beavers are rebounding across their historical ranges. But conflicts between beavers and people can result as the animals move back into areas where they once lived and begin damming waterways. Fortunately, simple solutions are available to help us peacefully coexist.

DO TRAPPING AND DAM DESTRUCTION WORK?

Where there is beaver habitat, there are beavers. In one Tennessee study, after all 169 resident beavers were removed from a wetland study site, 162 new beavers moved into the area within a few years. Two-year-old beavers in search of new territory often replace any trapped animals, occupying vacated lodges and building new dams.

Destroying dams is also ineffective because beavers have an instinctive response to patch up any spot where they hear the sound of running water. They persistently rebuild their dams. There are no long-lasting ways to discourage beavers from occupying suitable habitat. The answer is to work *with* beavers to control flooding.

WHAT DOES WORK FOR FLOODING PROBLEMS?

The best systems for controlling beaver flooding are based on deception and exclusion. The beaver dam is breached in such a way that the beavers don't hear the sound of running water, and the water level can then be controlled without alerting the beavers. One of the simplest methods uses ADS flex pipes. The beauty of these "Beaver



Beaver Impeders stop flooding caused by beavers. In this photo, a mesh protector—an essential part of the Beaver Impeder—is transported to the dam site by boat. (A beaver lodge is in the background.)

Impeder" systems is that they are inexpensive and take as little as an hour to install. Maintenance is minimal—the pipes should be checked frequently for a few weeks after installation and every few months thereafter. Any debris caught in them usually can be cleared in a matter of minutes.

Beaver Impeder systems require very basic tools and materials in addition to the flex pipes—heavy gauge wire mesh, wire cutters, wire, and cinder blocks. The dam is notched and flex pipes are placed in the notch, typically extending 20 feet or so into the pond. The inlet ends are then capped and protected with a wire mesh cylinder. Cinder blocks are attached to the pipes to keep them fully submerged. Normally within 24 to 48 hours, the beavers will fix the notched dam, unwittingly securing the pipe system in place. *Before installing any water level control device, be sure to check if your town or district requires breach permits or has any other restrictions.*

Generally speaking, Beaver Impeders are not effective in less than 1 foot of standing water or in very silty soils—because the pipes tend to fill with sediment—or in areas where a large volume of water must be moved, such as under bridges. Alternatives for use in these circumstances exist, though. For more information on these other methods, complete and mail the attached card or contact The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) at 203-389-4411.

WHAT ABOUT TREE DAMAGE?

The simplest way to protect trees from beavers is to purchase a roll of heavy gauge wire mesh (4 feet high with 2-by-4-inch mesh squares) from a hardware or home improvement store. Wrap a piece of mesh around the trunk base of each vulnerable tree, securing the two ends with form wire to form a free-standing mesh cylinder. Leave 5 to 6 inches of space between the tree trunk and the cylinder. There's no need to stake the mesh in place; beavers will not go under it as long as it remains flush with the ground at the bottom.

An alternative to prevent beavers from damaging trees is to apply a mixture of paint and sand to the base of the trunks. The most successful mixtures have a ratio of 1 quart of latex paint to 8 ounces of masonry sand. The mixture makes the trees unpalatable to beavers, and it only needs to be applied to the first 3 to 4 feet of the trunk. Most people choose paint colors that blend in with the tree trunks to retain the landscape's aesthetic appeal.



Using heavy-gauge wire mesh cylinders around the bases of tree trunks helps deter damage to trees near the water's edge.

YES! I'D LIKE MORE INFORMATION!

- Please send me your *A New Way to Solve Beaver Problems* six-minute video (FREE to municipalities, highway departments, and teachers; others should include a \$5 check or money order made payable to The HSUS*).
- Please send me your free informational packet detailing the beaver conflict resolution services offered by The HSUS's Beaver Remedies program.
- Please contact me to arrange for HSUS staff to give a presentation in my community on the services offered by The HSUS's Beaver Remedies program.
- Please contact me to arrange for an on-site assessment and consultation for a specific beaver-caused problem in my community.

NAME _____

POSITION _____

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION/MUNICIPALITY _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

DAYTIME TELEPHONE _____

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