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INSIDE & OUT

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By The Denver Post

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space & time

Seasonal critter control. Unwanted animals sometimes want to take up residence in your home during wintertime. This is a problem: Critters such as raccoons and squirrels can chew the insulation on wires, creating a fire hazard. Another common invader, bats, can create a health hazard. And moles can damage your yard and plants. Prevent animals such as these from sharing your house by following these "Tips for Keeping Critters Out" from angieslist.com.

Roof and siding: Look for loose vent screens, warped siding or holes. Make repairs once you have checked the attic and cleared out any critters.

Chimney: An easy way to keep animals out is to install a chimney cap. Keep your flue closed when not in use.

Pet doors: While these can be a great convenience for you and your pet, they can also be an entryway for unwanted wildlife. Consider electronic pet doors instead of the traditional flaps.

Trash: Animals are drawn to the smell of food. Always secure trash containers, and put out trash the morning of collection instead of the night before.

Trees and landscape: Keep tree limbs trimmed and away from your house. Accessible branches give animals a bridge to your roof. Cover and secure compost piles.

Fill gaps and cracks: Mice can get through a crack as small as a quarter of an inch. Check the perimeter outside your home for holes, gaps and deteriorated weather stripping.

energy

No batteries required. Bedol's Water-Powered Alarm Clock fits right into today's green lifestyles. The \$29 clock turns the water's ions into electricity for continuous, clean energy. Add fresh water to the clock's tank every 10 weeks for uninterrupted operation. It's available online at bedolwhatsnext.com.



(The Denver Post)

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