

Likely prospects include squirrels, moles, voles, skunks, raccoons, armadillos, groundhogs, chipmunks, pets, and insects like cicada killers. The size, shape, location, and soil disturbance around the holes inform you a lot, as do tracks, droppings, time of day the activity takes place, and what's missing out on from your lawn. With a little observation, you can normally narrow it to a couple of types, then choose targeted fixes that really work.

I have actually walked numerous lawns with homeowners staring at a polka-dotted lawn and a sinking feeling in the gut. Many holes are not emergency situations, but they can mean genuine damage to turf, gardens, and irrigation. The technique is to identify before you treat. A generic technique wastes money and frequently makes the problem worse. Listed below, I'll break down what I try to find, case by case, and where I fix a limit and call a licensed exterminator or wildlife control operator.

Start with the hole, not the animal

You probably won't capture the burglar in the act. The ground is your witness, and it speaks. Get a measuring tape. Photograph the hole beside a coin or a glove for scale. Note the time you first noticed activity and whether it's repeating after rain or mowing.

Hole size matters. So does whether there's a mound, a fan of loose soil, claw marks, or smooth edges. Fresh soil has a richer color and holds shape; older holes collapse and gray out. Smell the soil if you can endure it. Skunk digs frequently carry a faint musk. Raccoon latrines are unmistakable once you have actually seen one, however let's hope you haven't.

Quick size guide, with personality

Small holes the size of a dime to a quarter, shallow and spread, point to bugs or little rodents. Golf ball size to tangerine size suggests chipmunks, squirrels, or wasps. Baseball to softball size burrows with defined entryways, in some cases with a pile of excavated soil, recommend mammals that live underground or raid yards at night. Anything larger than a grapefruit, with a clear tunnel and fresh spoil, brings groundhogs or armadillos into play.

Squirrels: neat divots with a habit

Squirrels cache and recuperate food by making little, shallow divots 2 to 3 inches broad. These holes rarely go deeper than 2 inches, and they typically appear near trees or along fence lines where squirrels take a trip. In fall you'll see a burst of activity as they bury acorns and pecans. In spring they dig a few of them up. Soil is normally discarded lightly, not piled.

What helps: thinning heavy nut drop, raking regularly, eliminating fallen fruit, and using hardware fabric to safeguard beds. Repellents can minimize activity short-term, however they rinse. Do not lose cash on sonic stakes for squirrel holes. If the lawn is pocked however not collapsing, you're taking a look at problem, not structural damage.

Chipmunks: small burrowers with concealed doorways

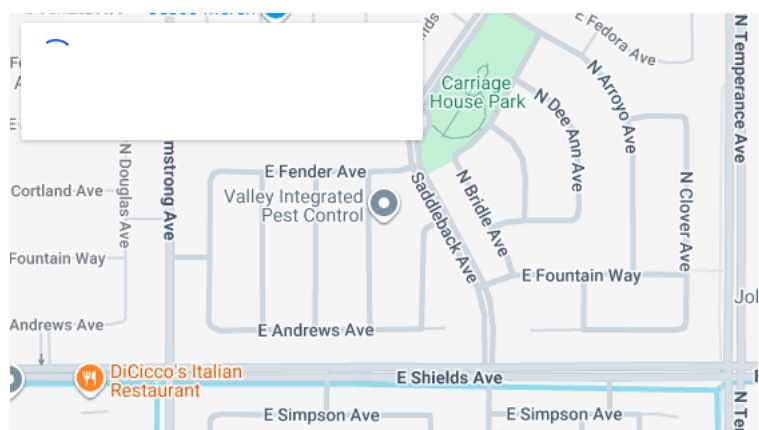
Chipmunk burrow entryways run around one and a half to two inches broad, cool and round, without any excavated mound at the entrance. That lack of a soil stack is a trademark. They bring soil away in cheek pouches and dispose it discreetly. You'll find entryways at slab edges, steps, retaining walls, and rock borders. If the hole lives under an air conditioner pad or concrete stoop, chipmunks are among the first suspects.

Typical indications include plant roots gnawed off from below and hollow courses under mulch where they commute. I've seen stoops settle when chipmunk burrows honeycomb the soil. Live-trapping with sunflower seed works, however you need to close gain access to later with quarter-inch hardware fabric and fixed mortar joints. If they're undermining structures, consult wildlife control.

Moles: engineers of the subsurface

Moles do not eat your plants; they eat grubs and earthworms. Their signature is the raised runway. You'll feel spongy ridges underfoot and see volcano-like mounds if they're excavating deep tunnels. The holes themselves are not normally open; you're discovering collapsed parts where the roof gave way under a lawn mower wheel or after rain. Yard looks like somebody laid a garden tube simply under the sod.

Key detail: active mole runs feel firm and springy if you press with a palm, and they get rebuilt within a day after you tamp them down. Inactive runs flatten and remain flat. Control choices include trapping along active runs, reducing grub populations if your turf has actually recorded grub pressure, and avoiding overwatering, which draws earthworms up and keeps soil moist, conditions moles enjoy. Grub control alone does not guarantee mole elimination because worms are a main food. Expert mole trapping works when positioned on straight, frequently used runs.



Voles: plant assassins with pinholes

Voles, often called meadow mice, leave silver-dollar sized openings and, more telling, quarter-inch large runways pressed through turf and mulch. In winter, they tunnel under snow and after that expose a damage map when the thaw comes. You'll find girdled shrubs with bark chewed at the base and bulbs hollowed like apples. Unlike moles, voles do eat roots, bulbs, and bark.

What helps: snap-traps in peanut butter bait stations placed perpendicular to runways, environment decrease by pulling mulch back from trunks, and tight hardware fabric collars around young trees. Felines make a dent. Poison baits are readily available but come with non-target dangers. If voles are heavy and next-door neighbors are likewise affected, a collaborated effort works better than a solo campaign.

Skunks: neat cones at night

Skunks penetrate yards carefully but persistently, specifically when grubs are abundant. The holes are cone-shaped, about one to 3 inches large, and shallow, like someone poked the lawn with a finger. Nighttime activity, grub-chasing, and a faint musk provide away. In heavy invasions, a lawn can look like it was peppered with a golf tee.

Skunks will also den under decks and sheds, where you might see a bigger opening, four to 6 inches broad, with soft soil at the limit and a visible smell. If you believe a den and it's spring, beware; there may be sets. Exclusion with one-way doors is a timing video game and is best delegated pros. Long-lasting, repair the food source. If a soil sample or grass pull test shows grubs at damaging levels, deal with the lawn. If you don't have grubs, skunks typically lose interest.

Raccoons: lawn roll-up artists

Raccoons are strong, curious, and nocturnal. Where skunks peck, raccoons pry. They roll back grass like a carpet to consume grubs and worms below, leaving flaps of sod or square sections neatly turned. If your yard lifts quickly in mats, raccoons or armadillos are prime suspects depending upon region. Tracks in soft soil program hand-like prints with visible fingers and nails.

Preventive steps include protecting trash, getting rid of pet food, and bright motion lights. To dissuade yard flipping, water less in the evening, which decreases earthworms near the surface. Where damage is severe, a wildlife pro can set compliance traps, however you require to integrate capture with access control and food decrease or you produce a revolving door.

Armadillos: diggers with a travel route

In the southern states, armadillos leave quarter to baseball sized cone-shaped holes, 2 to 5 inches deep, while foraging for grubs and bugs. They work at night and follow regular courses. Their burrows are larger, often eight inches throughout, with crescent-shaped spoil stacks and a distinct earthy smell. Unlike raccoons, they will not roll grass, they pierce it. If you have a slope with soft soil and a great deal of beetle activity, armadillos find it fast.

They are infamously trap-shy unless you funnel them with boards along their normal paths. Fencing to omit them must be buried or turned external at the base. Control of white grubs decreases interest but does not eliminate it totally. Examine local policies before any control; some areas limit methods.

Groundhogs: huge holes, big appetite

A groundhog burrow appears like an eight to twelve inch round hole with a big mound of excavated soil nearby, typically with a secondary escape hole without a mound. You'll find gnawed greenery close to the entrance and well-worn courses. They like clover, beans, lettuce, and flowers. Under decks, sheds, and embankments are prime den spots. I as soon as tested a groundhog den with a smoke bomb the owner had actually attempted. The smoke put out 2 additional holes twenty feet away. That's typical, which is why half procedures fail.

Groundhogs are strong diggers and can weaken slabs. If family pets or kids utilize the backyard, don't leave an active burrow open. Lethal control and moving have legal limitations and illness danger. This is where a licensed wildlife operator earns their cost: setting body-grip traps at the den in accordance with state law, then setting up a buried exclusion skirt to avoid re-entry.

Rabbits: small holes are red herrings

Rabbits do not dig large burrows in many yards. They utilize shallow scrapes in mulch or grass, called types, and frequently nest in anxieties lined with fur. What appears like a hole may be a nest cavity covered with thatch. If you discover infant rabbits, cover the nest lightly and keep family pets away; the mother returns briefly at dawn and sunset. If you see a 2 to 3 inch entryway under a low shrub, it might be a chipmunk, not a rabbit.

Wasps and bees: search for traffic, not dirt

Cicada killer wasps create impressive quarter-sized holes with a fan of loose soil and a pebble or 2 at the rim, typically in bare, sun-baked ground. They are big, challenging fliers, but singular and usually non-aggressive away from active burrows. Yellow coats, by contrast, utilize existing cavities and you will not see a neat stack or a specified tunnel the method mammals do. What you will see is traffic. If the hole hums with comings and goings throughout daytime, call a pest control service that handles stinging bugs. Do not put fuel into holes, ever. It eliminates soil, dangers groundwater, and does not reliably reach the nest.

Ants and termites: mounds and pellets

Ants bring soil up in crumbly mounds with multiple tiny openings. Fire ants build high, soft mounds without a central crater. Termites do not expose holes, however you may see pencil-thin mud tubes up foundation walls or sand-like pellets from drywood termite kickout holes in structures, not yards. If you see consistent, peppery pellets around a wooden threshold, gather a sample for recognition. Lawn ants are normally a nuisance; structural termites are not. When wood is involved, generate a certified pest control operator for an inspection and a targeted treatment plan.

Dogs and human factors

Sometimes the culprit is a bored dog, a specialist who left test holes, or a next-door neighbor's family pet that sees during the night. Pet holes are normally larger, messier, and located near cool soil under shrubs or where something smells intriguing, such as a buried bone or drip line. Movement cameras resolve these secrets quickly.

I have actually also had 2 lawns where irrigation leakages softened soil so significantly that animal traffic appeared to blow up. Once the leakage was fixed and the ground dried, activity dropped. Soft ground welcomes digging because insects and worms are plentiful. Always check irrigation if the damage pattern follows a pipe route.

Reading the context: season, weather condition, and region

In the Midwest, grub feeding peaks late summer into fall, which is when skunks and raccoons go to work. In northern environments, vole damage appears after snowmelt. In the Southeast and Gulf states, armadillos and fire ants complicate the image. Wet springs bring earthworms to the surface and moles follow. Drought focuses activity around irrigated lawns. If you know what's in season, you can expect and prevent.

How to verify without guesswork

A path cam with night vision, set six to 10 inches above ground and intended throughout a suspected runway or hole, typically solves the puzzle in 2 nights. Fresh flour around the hole entryway records tracks without harming animals. A plank over a mole kept up a cup inverted beneath can identify an active push. These low-tech techniques minimize the risk of dealing with the wrong species.

If you prefer a clean, very little method before devoting to gear, do a two-day test: tamp mole ridges in the evening, then check for brand-new pushes at dawn; rake skunk pecks smooth at sunset, then look for fresh cones in the early morning; fill chipmunk holes lightly with soil to see which resume within 24 hours, then watch those entryways from a window.

Prevention that actually sticks

Most house owners ask for a single cure-all. There isn't one. The reputable course mixes environment modifications with targeted control. Cut at the appropriate height for your grass types so the canopy is thick and roots are strong. Avoid persistent overwatering; deep, periodic watering beats daily sprinkles. Lower food for the animals you don't want, which often means managing the animals they consume or getting rid of simple calories like birdseed spills and fallen fruit.

Seal structural spaces bigger than half an inch with hardware cloth or mortar where practical. For decks and sheds, an exclusion skirt of galvanized hardware fabric buried six inches with a horizontal turn of twelve inches outside stops most burrowers. When you garden, utilize bulb cages for tulips in vole country and select daffodils where possible considering that voles overlook them. If you should use repellents, turn active ingredients and do not anticipate miracles throughout heavy pressure.

When to generate a pro

Certain scenarios press beyond DIY. Big denning animals under structures. Aggressive stinging insects with concealed nests. Recurring mole or armadillo damage over numerous seasons regardless of efforts. Situations near schools or public sidewalks where liability is genuine. A <https://www.bizbangboom.com/united-states/fresno/business-services/valley->

[Integrated-pest-control](#) certified exterminator or wildlife control operator brings species-specific traps, legal clearance, and experience putting them properly. Inquire about their examination process, what they think the target types is and why, and what they will do to avoid re-entry once the instant problem is solved. Good pros discuss exclusion and environment, not just removal.

Costs vary commonly by region and species. Mole trapping programs often run in multi-visit packages. Groundhog removal with exemption skirts can be a multi-day task. Constantly ask for a written plan and warranty terms. If someone guarantees universal results with a spray that "drives everything away," be skeptical.

Safety notes you should not skip

Rodent baits can eliminate family pets and non-target wildlife through primary or secondary poisoning. If you use them, utilize locked bait stations, choose solutions less likely to trigger secondary kills where proper, and follow the label precisely. Fumigants for burrows are restricted-use in numerous states and can be deadly to unintended animals, consisting of family pets. Never ever deploy a fumigant without proper licensing and training.

Gasoline, bleach, ammonia, and mothballs do not belong in the soil. They stop working more than they prosper and infect your lawn. When you're dealing with skunks, remember the danger of rabies in numerous regions. Avoid cornering any animal, and keep canines leashed at sunset and dawn while you diagnose.

Matching typical patterns to likely culprits

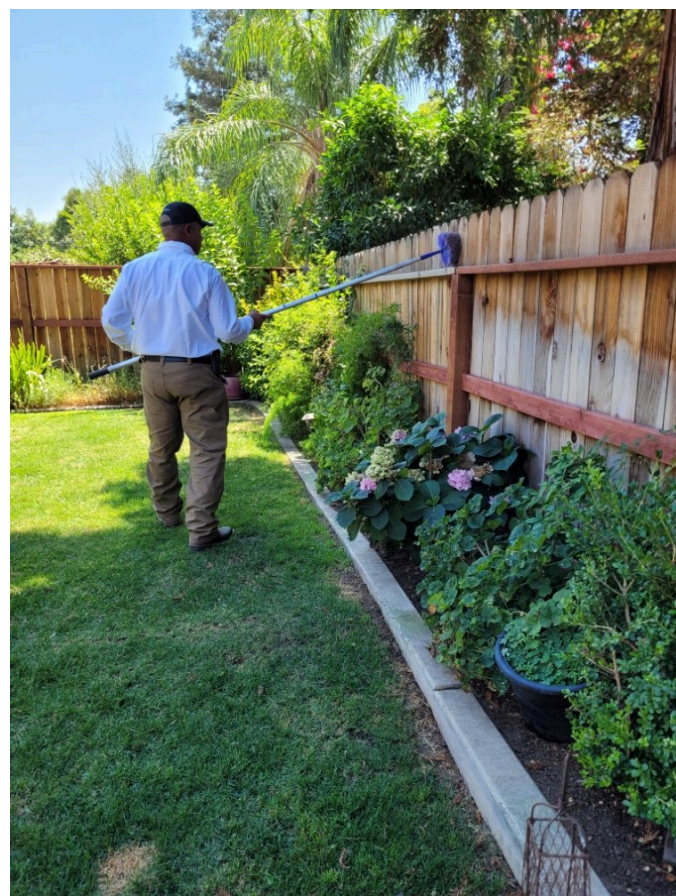
Here's a succinct field matching you can run through in your head.

- Cone-shaped pecks throughout the lawn after a warm, damp night, plus a faint musk: skunks foraging for grubs.
- Sod rolled like carpet with square or ragged edges, overnight: raccoons, potentially armadillos in the South if there are leak holes too.
- Raised, spongy ridges that come back after you press them down: moles, not voles.
- Two-inch round holes with no soil pile at piece edges or actions: chipmunks.
- Eight to twelve inch holes with a big spoil mound near sheds or embankments: groundhogs.
- Quarter-sized holes in difficult, bright soil with a loose fan of dirt, daytime wasp traffic: cicada killers.

Keep in mind that mixed indications happen. A backyard can host moles creating tunnels and then skunks exploiting them for a meal. If you see both runs and pecks, deal with both parts of the equation or you'll chase your tail.

Repairing the lawn and beds after the perpetrator is gone

Once the activity stops, rake loose soil, topdress low areas with screened compost or topsoil, and reseed or plug as needed. For rolled grass, water, press it back, and pin with eco-friendly stakes for a week. For vole runways, rake to rough up the thatch and overseed. For burrow entrances under structures, backfill only after you are specific the den is empty and you have actually set up exemption. Filling an active den merely shifts the exit and might trap animals where you can't reach them.



If grubs were part of the problem, select a product that matches your timing. Preventive applications with active ingredients like chlorantraniliprole in late spring target newly hatched larvae. Curative items used in late summer season deal with existing grubs. Don't apply both without a reason; test and verify pressure first.

A sensible expectation on timelines

Most yard wildlife issues fix within two to 4 weeks when diagnosed properly and addressed with concentrated steps. Moles may need a couple of tactical trap checks. Raccoons carry on once the buffet closes. Groundhog elimination and exemption might take a week, in some cases two if there are numerous den holes. On the other hand, vole population reductions can take a season since you're altering habitat in addition to numbers.

Give yourself a calendar marker. If you do not see enhancement in 7 to ten days after a proper intervention, reassess. Either the species ID is incorrect, the food source remains, or access wasn't closed. A brief check-in with a pest control expert at that point frequently saves weeks of frustration.

A short, useful checklist to recognize and act

- Measure hole diameter and depth, note mound presence, and photograph for scale.
- Map where holes occur: open yard, edges, along slabs, near beds, or under structures.
- Check timing: fresh holes at dawn, night electronic camera activity, seasonal patterns.
- Test the lawn: tamp mole runs, fill up little holes lightly, see what reopens.
- Decide on targeted action: trapping, exclusion, or habitat/food adjustment, and set a one to 2 week review.

Final ideas from the field

The ground informs the story if you decrease and read it. A lot of homeowners begin with a product and end with a guess. Turn that. Make a tidy identification, then utilize the lightest reliable touch. When the damage indicate a denning animal or stinging bugs near traffic, bring in a professional with the right tools. If you keep your yard healthy, remove easy calories, and close structural gaps, you'll spend far less time going after animals and more time taking pleasure in the area. And if something new starts digging next [exterminator](#) [fresno](#) season, you'll know how to listen to the yard and catch the culprit quickly.

NAP

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Email: matt@vippestcontrol.net

Hours:

Monday: 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Tuesday: 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Thursday: 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Friday: 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Saturday: 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM
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Valley Integrated Pest Control is a pest control service
Valley Integrated Pest Control is located in Fresno California
Valley Integrated Pest Control is based in United States
Valley Integrated Pest Control provides pest control solutions
Valley Integrated Pest Control offers exterminator services
Valley Integrated Pest Control specializes in cockroach control
Valley Integrated Pest Control provides integrated pest management
Valley Integrated Pest Control has an address at 3116 N Carriage Ave, Fresno, CA 93727
Valley Integrated Pest Control has phone number (559) 307-0612
Valley Integrated Pest Control has website <https://vippestcontrolfresno.com/>
Valley Integrated Pest Control serves Fresno California
Valley Integrated Pest Control serves the Fresno metropolitan area
Valley Integrated Pest Control serves zip code 93727
Valley Integrated Pest Control is a licensed service provider
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Valley Integrated Pest Control is a Nextdoor Neighborhood Fave winner 2025
Valley Integrated Pest Control operates in Fresno County
Valley Integrated Pest Control focuses on effective pest removal
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Popular Questions About Valley Integrated Pest Control

What services does Valley Integrated Pest Control offer in Fresno, CA?

Valley Integrated Pest Control provides pest control service for residential and commercial properties in Fresno, CA, including common needs like ants, cockroaches, spiders, rodents, wasps, mosquitoes, and flea and tick treatments. Service recommendations can vary based on the pest and property conditions.

Do you provide residential and commercial pest control?

Yes. Valley Integrated Pest Control offers both residential and commercial pest control service in the Fresno area, which may include preventative plans and targeted treatments depending on the issue.

Do you offer recurring pest control plans?

Many Fresno pest control companies offer recurring service for prevention, and Valley Integrated Pest Control promotes pest management options that can help reduce recurring pest activity. Contact the team to match a plan to your property and pest pressure.

Which pests are most common in Fresno and the Central Valley?

In Fresno, property owners commonly deal with ants, spiders, cockroaches, rodents, and seasonal pests like mosquitoes and wasps. Valley Integrated Pest Control focuses on solutions for these common local pest problems.

What are your business hours?

Valley Integrated Pest Control lists hours as Monday through Friday 7:00 AM–5:00 PM, Saturday 7:00 AM–12:00 PM, and closed on Sunday. If you need a specific appointment window, it's best to call to confirm availability.

Do you handle rodent control and prevention steps?

Valley Integrated Pest Control provides rodent control services and may also recommend practical prevention steps such as sealing entry points and reducing attractants to help support long-term results.

How does pricing typically work for pest control in Fresno?

Pest control pricing in Fresno typically depends on the pest type, property size, severity, and whether you choose one-time service or recurring prevention. Valley Integrated Pest Control can usually provide an estimate after learning more about the problem.

How do I contact Valley Integrated Pest Control to schedule service?

Call [\(559\) 307-0612](tel:(559)307-0612) to schedule or request an estimate. For Spanish assistance, you can also call [\(559\) 681-1505](tel:(559)681-1505). You can follow Valley Integrated Pest Control on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#)

Valley Integrated Pest Control is committed to serving the [%%AREA_NAME%%](#) community and offers ant control services for rentals and family homes. If you're in need of rodent control in [%%AREA_NAME%%](#), contact Valley Integrated Pest Control near [%%LANDMARK_NAME%%](#).