

# SOS Helpful Hints

## Steps to Prevent Ticks

### Step 1: Call us for Season-Long Tick Protection

Ticks can quickly become a concern as temperatures rise, but proactive treatment can significantly reduce their presence on your property. We can help prevent ticks from populating your lawn with our **Granular Insect Control Treatments** applied throughout the season.

Starting early with a single application can reduce the tick population by **over 50 percent**, helping to minimize infestations before they become a bigger problem. During the summer months, we can further enhance protection by complementing the granular treatment with our **Tick & Skeeter Deleter Natural Insect Spray**.

This added layer of defense helps target ticks and mosquitoes, giving you more complete coverage. Early intervention is key. Starting treatment at the right time helps protect your lawn, your pets, and your family so you can enjoy the summer season with greater peace of mind. 

### Step 2: Clean-up: Are You Creating “Tick Heaven” on Your Property?

Let's make sure your yard isn't inviting ticks to take up residence! Ticks need cool, shaded areas to survive. Their favorite hiding spots are damp, dark environments, often found underneath brush piles, stacked wood, overgrown vegetation, and accumulated dead leaves. These “tick havens” provide the moisture and protection ticks need to thrive.

#### To discourage ticks:

- Remove piles of brush and yard debris, clear away dead leaves promptly
- Trim back overgrown shrubs and vegetation
- Improve airflow and sunlight in shaded areas.

By keeping your yard clean and well-maintained, you eliminate the environment that ticks depend on, making your property far less appealing to them.

### Step 3: Proper Mowing Height & Tick Awareness: Cut Frequently - *with a catch*

For a healthy lawn, mowing height is extremely important. During the middle of summer, grass should be maintained **no shorter than 3½ inches**. Taller grass helps shade the soil, retain moisture, and protect your lawn from seasonal heat stress. However, there is another factor to consider. When grass is allowed to grow too long and is not cut regularly, it can become a haven for ticks.

Tall, dense grass provides shade and retains moisture, the ideal environment for ticks to survive. Regular mowing helps reduce their shelter and allows sunlight to dry morning dew more quickly, depriving ticks of the moisture they need. If possible, water your lawn in the early morning. This gives the grass time to dry throughout the day, further discouraging tick activity.

**That said, higher turf height plays an important role in protecting your lawn from summer stress.** Ultimately, it comes down to your personal preference and priorities, whether your focus is on maximizing lawn protection from heat or reducing conditions that may attract ticks.

Finding the right balance can help you maintain both a healthy lawn and a more comfortable outdoor environment. 

## Step 4: Clean Birdfeeders & Hidden Tick Habitats

We rarely think of birdfeeders as a home for ticks, but they can be.

Birdfeeders often create shaded, undisturbed areas underneath them. Fallen seed, leaf debris, and moisture can accumulate below the feeder, creating the cool, damp conditions that ticks prefer. Because these areas aren't frequently disturbed, they can quietly become ideal tick habitats.

### To reduce the risk:

- Regularly rake and remove fallen seed and debris
- Keep the area underneath the feeder clean and dry
- Consider relocating feeders occasionally to prevent buildup

A simple cleaning routine can go a long way in discouraging ticks from settling in — helping you maintain a safer and healthier yard. 

## Step 5: Firewood & Tick Prevention

Firewood, much like brush piles and dead leaves, can provide the perfect combination of darkness and moisture that ticks need to survive.

When wood is loosely piled or stacked directly on damp ground, it creates cool, shaded spaces that make ideal hiding spots for ticks.

### To discourage ticks:

- Stack firewood neatly and off the ground when possible
- Store it in a dry, well-ventilated location
- Keep wood piles away from heavily traveled areas of your yard

Proper storage not only keeps your firewood dry and ready to use, but it also helps reduce the likelihood of ticks taking up residence nearby. 

## Step 6: Keep Vegetation Trimmed & Tidy

Regular trimming and cleanup are key to maintaining a healthy landscape and discouraging ticks.

Remove dead, messy, and overgrown vegetation promptly. Dense, unmanaged foliage creates shaded, humid conditions that ticks find especially inviting. By keeping shrubs and plants neatly trimmed, you improve airflow and allow more sunlight to reach the ground, making the area far less appealing to ticks.

A well-maintained yard not only looks better, but it also creates a less welcoming environment for unwanted pests. 