

Karen Wichman

Uninvited Guest

18 years ago, my 7-year-old son and I arrived at the cabin at dusk one Friday evening. Upon opening my slider, I noticed an upper cupboard door wide open. I thought how strange it was; I was certain it was closed when I left. Oh well.... We started packing our weekends worth of gear in. I noticed a bulb of garlic tossed across the kitchen floor from the counter....hmm, oh well. As I proceeded, something just seemed off. Upon closer inspection, I noticed a hole in the sheet rock above my pantry cupboard. That was new.

I got a stool to see what was happening. About a 3" hole had been chewed through the sheet rock. Yikes! The first thought was that I needed to block it immediately. The closest item at hand was a new box of wine (medicinal purposes only). Threw it up on top of the cupboard and put a brick in front of it.

Then, my mind went immediately to where is the vermin that caused the hole? Inside or above the ceiling? We went to bed exhausted, hoping to survive until daybreak. Eyes just drifting shut, gnawing noise above cupboard being applied to wine box, eyes wide open immediately. I figured I would be cleaning up a big red wine mess the next morning.

The next morning, no wine flowed over the cupboard, but missing every single shiny wrapped mini snicker bars from a bowl inside the cupboard with the door opened. I realized later that Pack Rats are nocturnal and was the marauder gnawing through my wall and wine box and stealing all my snickers. Immediately sealed every orifice visible under, on, or top of cabin.

No problems since, I do not feed or encourage squirrels or other rodents to visit my cabin any longer.