

Armadillo Prevention & Management Tips

Understanding Armadillo Behavior

Armadillos are insectivores — their diet consists almost entirely of grubs, beetles, earthworms, and other subsurface insects. The lawn and landscape damage they leave behind is a byproduct of foraging, not intentional destruction. Armadillos are primarily nocturnal, have poor eyesight, and navigate almost entirely by smell. They tend to follow habitual foraging paths and return to productive areas repeatedly. Activity is year-round in South Carolina’s mild climate, though it intensifies in warmer months.

Burrowing: Know the Risks

Armadillos are prolific burrowers and are particularly attracted to areas beneath foundations, porches, driveways, retaining walls, and other hardscape features where soil is loose and insect activity is concentrated. Over time, extensive burrowing can undermine structural integrity and create surface-level tripping hazards. Property owners are encouraged to inspect foundations and hardscape periodically — particularly along edges where soil meets concrete, stone, or pavers — for signs of active burrowing such as fresh soil mounds, small entry holes approximately 3–4 inches in diameter, or settling along walkways and structural footings. Early detection allows for prompt intervention before damage becomes costly to repair.

Prevention Tips

- Treat your lawn for grubs and subsurface insects. Eliminating the food source is the most effective long-term deterrent. Consult with your professional landscape provider about a treatment plan tailored to your property.
- Use compacted mulch rather than loose, airy mulch in garden beds to reduce foraging appeal.
- Consider hardware cloth or wire mesh buried 12–18 inches underground in planting beds to create a physical barrier against digging.
- Fencing can be an effective deterrent in areas where permitted, but all fencing must comply with the Cassique Architectural Design Standards and receive prior approval from the Architectural Review Board (ARB).
- Regularly inspect your property for burrows, particularly around foundations, driveways, retaining walls, and hardscape edges where burrowing can create tripping hazards or compromise structural integrity.

Trapping & Removal

Live trapping is a common and effective option for persistent armadillo activity. Armadillos are not a protected species in South Carolina, and trapping is generally permitted on private property. However, the HOA strongly encourages property owners to contact a licensed nuisance wildlife control operator (NWCO) rather than handling armadillos themselves for the following reasons:

- Armadillos can carry diseases, including leprosy (Hansen’s disease).
- South Carolina law requires traps to be monitored daily.
- It is unlawful to relocate or transport armadillos in South Carolina. Any captured animal must be humanely dispatched on-site.

A licensed professional can assess your property and provide a tailored management plan specific to your needs.