

Tips for Reducing the Tick Habitat in the Backyard^o

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Make it Hot! Hot! Hot!

- Bag your grass clippings and place leaves in a separate place for compost. Collected leaf litter and grass clippings provide cooler environments for ticks.
- Keep the grass short. Taller blades of grass create shade providing a cool environment for ticks.

Create a barrier.

- Place a three to four-foot-wide barrier of wood chips or gravel between lawns and wooded areas to restrict tick migration into grass areas.
- Use mulch made from broad, dry wood chips or bark, not the damp, shredded variety, which creates exactly the kind of cool, damp conditions ticks love.
- Gravel is ideal because it stays dry, heats up during the day from the sun, something ticks can't tolerate.
- The barrier has a dual purpose; the ticks won't want to cross it, and dogs will have a border that they can be trained to avoid.

Clear tall grasses and brush around buildings and at the edge of lawns.

Stack wood neatly in a dry and separate area away from grass areas. This discourages rodents that transport ticks.

Consider using an all-natural, plant-based pest control product around the perimeters of the yard.

**Compiled from CDC, Consumer Reports websites.*