

How to Be a Good Chimney Swift Host



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Enjoy! Very few people are lucky enough to have Chimney Swifts in their chimneys.

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Why my chimney?

- Chimney Swifts use chimneys to nest or to roost (i.e. rest). They cannot walk or perch, instead they cling to the rough side of the chimney and attach their nests to the chimney wall.
- Chimney Swifts are not messy house guests; they make little noise, and their nests are not a fire hazard. All chimneys (with or without swifts) should be cleaned annually to remove flammable deposits such as soot and creosote.
- Chimney Swifts and their nests do not damage the physical structure of the chimney.
- Chimney Swifts are migratory. They spend their summers (roughly May until mid-October) in Ontario, and their winters in the Amazon Basin.

Chimney Care for Swifts:

- Chimney Swifts and building owners can easily co-exist. In most cases, property owners do not need to make any changes.
- There is only one nest in a chimney, and it is used by only one pair of Chimney Swifts.
- Clean the chimney and perform any maintenance between October 15 and April 15, when the birds are away from Canada for the winter. It is acceptable to remove nests during this time, because the birds rebuild a new nest every year they return to the chimney.
- To learn more about Chimney Swift populations in Ontario or to learn more about the swifts in your chimney, please contact Bird Studies Canada using the information below.
- Federal and Provincial legislation exists to protect the Threatened Chimney Swift and its habitat.
- Help our research by letting us know how many chimney swifts you have in your chimney by emailing us at the address below.

If you have any questions, if you would like more information on this species, or if you are interested in participating in Bird Studies Canada's Ontario SwiftWatch program, please contact:

Kathy Jones, Ontario Volunteer Coordinator
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www.birdscanada.org/research/speciesatrisk/chsw