

**Moles are small mammals adapted to a subterranean lifestyle (i.e. fossorial). They have cylindrical bodies; velvety fur; very small, inconspicuous ears and eyes; reduced hind limbs; and short, powerful forelimbs with large paws adapted for digging.**

Moles tunnel using their large two front paws to scrape away the earth and feel along tunnels with their snouts and whiskers. Because of the absence of light within their living conditions, moles have very poor eyesight so very rarely will you see mole activity above ground.

In rural areas especially, moles can cause considerable damage to land by tunnelling through the soil. With heavy infestations, the ground can become unstable, and holes may appear not only damaging the foundations of your property but also creating safety risks.



## Behaviour

Moles sleep, feed and breed in their tunnels. Moles occasionally appear above ground at the top of one of their characteristic molehills, and even then usually only the head and pink fleshy snout is revealed. Moles have a well-developed sense of orientation retaining a mental plan of their complex layout of underground tunnels.

The uniform texture of the fur allows it to lie in any direction, making it easier for the animal to reverse rapidly in the tunnels. When the soil is shallow or subject to flooding, large molehills known as 'fortresses' may be formed. These fortresses can measure up to a metre in height and contain a nest chamber and several radial tunnels.

Moles burrow in lawns, raising molehills and killing the lawn, for which they are sometimes considered pests. They can undermine plant roots, indirectly causing damage or death.