Sureguard ScareCrow®

Motion Activated Spray Repellent

Owner's Guide

Keep Unwanted Animals Out!

Uses a Startling Burst of Water

CONTENTS

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CHAPTER 1 — HOW IT WORKS & WHAT TO EXPECT

Water + Noise + Motion

The motion activated sprinkler combines a sudden spray of water with movement and sound. Together, these cues create an immediate, humane deterrent that encourages an animal to retreat with no chemicals, poisons or traps.

Each activation typically uses only 2–3 cups of water, depending on water pressure.

The water does not always need to reach the animal. Many animals turn away when they see the approaching spray or hear the sprinkler mechanism. This is often the best result because the animal leaves before reaching the food, water, shelter or other reward it was seeking.

The Key Principle: Intercept Before the Reward

Think about the route the animal uses and position the sprinkler so it encounters the deterrent before reaching its destination. An animal that reaches the reward may decide the inconvenience was worthwhile; an animal turned away is more likely to avoid the route in future.

Day and Night

During daylight, the visual movement of water is an important part of the deterrent. At night, the approaching spray and the sound of water striking the surrounding ground become stronger parts of the deterrent. A broader spray pattern can be selected to create a larger area of movement and sound.

Animals Respond Differently

Many animals retreat immediately; others may need several encounters. New animals entering the property have no previous experience of the sprinkler, so occasional activation over time is normal and does not mean the product has become less effective.

Realistic Results

Results depend on animal behaviour, approach routes, sensor visibility, water coverage and sprinkler position. Chapters 4 to 6 explain how to plan for the best results.

CHAPTER 2 — KNOW YOUR SCARECROW® SPRINKLER

Please refer to the illustration on page 2.

Body

The Body ❶ contains the Motion Sensor ❷, Battery Compartment ❸, electronics and internal water valve.


⓬ Up/Down Distance Adjustment
⓫ Sprinkler Outlet
⓭ Spray Spread Adjustment
⓮ Left/Right Angular Adjustment
❷ Motion Sensor
❿ Low Battery Indicator Light
❶ Body
❶ Body
❸ Battery Compartment
⓱ Ring
Ring
❽ In-Line Water Filter
❹ Connecting Shaft
❼ Daisy Chain Multiple Sprinklers
❻ Hose Inlet
❺ Ground Spike
⓯ Night Mode Sensor
⓰ Sensor Cap
❾ Sensitivity Adjustment

Connecting Shaft and Ground Spike

The Connecting Shaft ❹ joins the Body to the Ground Spike ❺. The Ground Spike supports the sprinkler and incorporates a Hose Inlet ❻ and Daisy Chain Outlet ❼ for connecting additional sprinklers. On paving or decking, place the spike in a stable, heavy pot filled with soil.

Install the assembled sprinkler vertically. Do not angle it upwards or downwards; the Motion Sensor lens already provides upward, forward and downward detection coverage.

In-line Water Filter

The In-line Water Filter ❽ protects the water valve from debris, and its rubber seal forms the watertight joint between the Body and Connecting Shaft. The Ring ⓱ allows the Body to point in any direction independently of the shaft and hose.

Motion Sensor and Sensitivity Control

The Passive Infrared (PIR) Motion Sensor ❷ detects a moving source of heat; Chapter 6 explains its operation. The Sensitivity Control ❾ is explained in Chapter 4. Setting 0 turns detection off. Setting 9 provides maximum sensitivity and is recommended for most situations.

Battery Compartment and Low Battery Indicator

The sprinkler uses two AA alkaline batteries. The internal cover provides the primary water seal and holds the batteries firmly against vibration. The external door ❸ provides additional water protection. The Low Battery Indicator ❿ illuminates red in the sensor window when the batteries require replacement.

Sprinkler Outlet Adjustments

The stream from the Sprinkler Outlet ⓫ can be adjusted in three ways; refer to Chapter 3 for enlarged images:

- Up/Down Distance Adjustment ⓬ controls trajectory and throw distance.
- Spray Spread Adjustment ⓭ changes the stream from a narrow jet to a broad spray.
- Left/Right Adjustment ⓮ defines the width of the sweep.

Day/Night Cap

The Night Mode Sensor ⓯ and the Sensor Cap ⓰ controls the operating period.

- When light reaches the sensor, the sprinkler enters standby mode. Normal operation is between dusk and sunrise.
- Leave the cap in place for 24-hour operation.

CHAPTER 3 — ASSEMBLY & INITIAL ADJUSTMENT

Step 1 — Inspect the Seals

- Check that the O-Ring 18 at the bottom of the Connecting Shaft 4 is present and undamaged.
- Inspect the In-line Water Filter in the Body 19. It may have moved during transit, which can cause leakage during assembly. Use a blunt plastic tool to press the rubber seal evenly into place, working around its full circumference. The filter should sit low, level and not tilted. Repeat this check if the joint leaks when water is first connected.

Step 2 — Assemble

- Firmly hold the Ring 17 under the Body to prevent rotation.
- Attach the Connecting Shaft 4 and rotate clockwise until hand tight.
- Attach the Ground Spike 5 to the Connecting Shaft.

- While continuing to hold the Ring, rotate the Ground Spike clockwise. This provides final hand leverage and compresses the In-line Water Filter seal.
- Check the joint by gently trying to rotate the Body in relation to the shaft. It should resist free movement but remain adjustable by hand so the Body can be aligned in the required direction.
- **Do not use tools or plumber's tape**. When correctly assembled, there should be no gap at the In-line Water Filter and no water leakage.
- Attach the sprinkler head to the body, as illustrated page 2.

Step 3 — Set the Initial Spray for Testing

- Set the Up/Down Distance Adjustment ⑫ to maximum distance. Ensure the dial locks into one of its notches so the setting cannot move during operation.
- Set the Spray Spread Adjustment ⑬ to the narrowest jet. Rotate it anticlockwise until the needle no longer intercepts the water stream. Do not fully unscrew the adjustment, as it may be lost.

Step 4 — Set the Sweep

Lift the wire clip ⑳ through 90 degrees so the two green adjuster rings ⑭ can move independently. Set the left and right sweep limits, then return the clip to its operating position. Turn the sprinkler head by hand and confirm that it clicks at both ends of the sweep and that the sweep range is what you want.

The sprinkler head may stop at any point within the selected sweep when an activation ends. With a narrow sweep, the head changes direction several times and usually comes to rest within a relatively small range. With a wide sweep, it changes direction fewer times and may stop anywhere across a much broader range. On the next activation, the spray may therefore begin by pointing away from the animal before sweeping towards it. Select an optimum sweep for your situation.

Use the narrowest sweep that still protects the required area. This improves the likelihood that the spray will reach the animal quickly when the sprinkler next activates.

Step 5 — Install the Batteries

- Set the Sensitivity Control to 9.
- Slide down the external door.
- Remove the internal cover. If necessary, use a coin to lift it gently from the base.
- Insert two new AA alkaline batteries. You should hear the water valve click open, then about four seconds later, click closed.
- Refit the internal cover and press it **firmly** until it clicks into place. If it is not fully secured, vibration during operation may cause the batteries to lose contact.
- Refit the external door.
- When replacing batteries, leave them out for at least 60 seconds before installing the new set so the electronics are fully reset.
- Do not mix old and new batteries or battery types.

Step 6 — Dry-Run Sensor Test

- Do not connect the hose yet.
- Set the Sensitivity Control to 9.
- With no hose connected, move your hand slowly across the front of the motion sensor from approximately 20–50 cm.
- Listen for the valve to click open and then close about four seconds later. The sensor responds quickly, but the electronics take about two seconds to generate the pulse needed to open the valve. This is normal.
- If the valve does not click, check the battery orientation and confirm that sensitivity is set to 9.

Step 7 — Connect the Water Supply

- Flush the hose before connection, then attach a 12 mm garden hose securely. Fully open the tap. The operating pressure range is 30–80 psi (0.2–0.6 MPa). Where pressure or flow is low, or several sprinklers are daisy-chained, a shorter hose or an 18 mm hose may improve performance.
- Stand behind or beside the sprinkler and repeat the sensor test. When triggered, water should discharge from the sprinkler head.
- Before disconnecting the hose, turn off the tap and activate the sprinkler once to release pressure.

Step 8 — Fine-Tune

Adjust the spray throw distance, spread and left-right sweep so the water covers the intended interception area without unnecessary overspray. Chapters 4 to 6 explain how to select the best settings.

CHAPTER 4 — INSTALLATION & COVERAGE PLANNING

Observe the Approach Route

Before choosing a permanent location, identify where the animal enters, how it travels and what it is trying to reach. Sprinkler position usually has more influence on performance than small control adjustments.

Detection Range and Water Throw

Detection range and water throw are different. Water may travel up to about 10 metres under favourable conditions with a maximum width 16 metres. Reliable detection for many target animals is typically around 6 metres and varies with animal size, speed, direction of travel and temperature contrast.

Sensitivity, Spray Spread and Distance

For most installations, set the Sensitivity Control to 9 and begin with the sprinkler adjusted for maximum water reach.

Set the Up/Down Distance Adjustment ⑫ to maximum distance and turn the Spray Spread Adjustment ⑬ anticlockwise to produce the narrowest stream. Set the Left/Right Adjustment ⑭ to the narrowest sweep that still covers the required area.

These settings provide the best starting point for testing. Adjust them only after observing where the water lands and how the animal approaches the protected area.

Choosing the Spray Pattern

The Up/Down Distance Adjustment ⑫ and Spray Spread Adjustment ⑬ both affect how far the water travels, but in different ways.

The Up/Down Distance Adjustment ⑫ changes the height and trajectory of the stream. The Spray Spread Adjustment ⑬ changes the stream from narrow to broad; a broader spray covers more width and creates more movement and sound but travels a shorter distance.

Try different combinations of these two controls to find the best balance of distance, width and spray height. Use the setting that intercepts the animal before it reaches its destination while avoiding unwanted over spray.

Multiple Approaches and Multiple Sprinklers

One sprinkler is sufficient for many sites. Where animals can enter from several directions, use additional sprinklers and overlap the detection and spray areas where practical. The outlet in the Ground Spike allows sprinklers to be daisy-chained. Each sprinkler operates independently according to nearby animal movement. If more than two sprinklers share one tap or hose, activate them simultaneously during testing to confirm that water pressure and flow remain adequate.

Pools and Water Features

For pools, arrange the sprinklers so birds are detected during their landing approach or before reaching the water. Chapter 5 provides animal-specific guidance.

CHAPTER 5 — ANIMAL CONTROL GUIDE

Every animal behaves differently. Understanding how the target animal approaches the protected area has a major influence on success.

Key Installation Principle: Intercept the animal before it reaches the reward.

The following advice is based on the typical behaviour of each animal. Skip to the relevant animal heading. Chapter 6 explains the Motion Sensor's coverage pattern and how to optimise detection.

Ducks, Geese and Water Birds

Water birds usually approach with a landing point in mind. Whenever practical, position the sprinkler so the motion sensor detects and interrupts birds during their inward flight or landing approach. Early detection gives the sprinkler more time to activate and turn the birds away before they reach the area attracting them. A broad spray creates a wider moving barrier and more sound as the water strikes the surrounding ground or water.

The motion sensor can also detect birds moving on or beside the water, but interception during the landing approach is often preferable. Once a bird has landed, it has already gained part of the benefit it was seeking—a safe landing place, water, food or access to the surrounding area. Deterring it earlier is more likely to discourage both the visit and future returns.

Different water birds approach pools and ponds in different ways. Pacific Black Ducks and Mallards commonly land directly on water, although their behaviour can vary. For these birds, ensure that the sensor has a clear view of the water surface and likely flight approaches.

Australian Wood Ducks spend more time on land than many other ducks and commonly graze on lawns and other grassy areas. They may land on surrounding ground or pool paving and then walk towards the water. Where Australian Wood Ducks are the problem, protect likely ground-landing and walking approaches and avoid leaving unprotected gaps.

For assistance identifying birds and understanding their behaviour, visit **www.birdsinbackyards.net**.

Gulls (Seagulls) and Pelicans

Gulls commonly gather where food scraps, unattended meals, rubbish or other easy food sources are available. They may also land and roost on roofs, awnings, ledges, jetties and other open structures. Pelicans are more commonly associated with waterfront areas, including jetties, pontoons, boat ramps and locations where fish are handled or cleaned.

Install the sprinkler on a firm, stationary surface and position it so birds are detected before landing or reaching the area attracting them. For roofs, outdoor dining areas and similar locations, aim the sensor across likely landing approaches and adjust the spray to cover the landing or roosting surface. Where food is the attraction, good waste control and preventing deliberate feeding will improve the result.

Around marinas and waterfront areas, place the sprinkler on a fixed jetty, pontoon or adjoining structure where it can protect the birds' usual landing or roosting place. Avoid strongly sunlit or thermally changing backgrounds if they cause false activation.

Do not attach the sprinkler to a boat or other moving structure. Movement of the sprinkler may cause false activation or unpredictable spray direction.

Ensure the sprinkler and its water stream cannot interfere with people fishing, launching boats or moving along jetties and pontoons.

Rabbits

Rabbits often travel between shelter and feeding areas using regular routes, fence openings and other convenient entry points. Observe where they enter and position the sprinkler so they are detected before reaching the plants or lawn they are seeking.

Rabbits move close to the ground. Keep grass and vegetation clear of the sensor's lower field of view. Where possible, aim the motion sensor across the likely approach route rather than directly along it.

Check for alternative approaches after installation. A rabbit deterred from one route may try another opening, so reposition the sprinkler or use additional units if gaps are discovered. Motion-activated sprinklers can discourage rabbits, but results may vary. Some rabbits may become accustomed to scare devices. For persistent damage or protection of particularly valuable plants, rabbit-proof fencing provides the most reliable exclusion.

Wallabies and Kangaroos

Wallabies and kangaroos are often attracted to lawns, gardens and young plants where food, water and nearby shelter are available. Observe where they enter the property and position the sprinkler so it detects them before they reach the area they intend to graze or browse.

Where practical, aim the motion sensor across the animals' approach rather than directly towards them.

If animals can enter from several directions, one sprinkler may leave alternative approaches unprotected. Reposition the sprinkler as their routes become apparent, or use additional sprinklers with overlapping detection and spray areas.

Install the sprinkler so the animals can retreat towards open ground or surrounding cover. Do not place it where a kangaroo could feel trapped between the sprinkler, a building or a fence.

For persistent browsing over a large area, combine the sprinkler with other measures such as mowing attractive grass, protecting young plants with guards, limiting access to water or installing suitable exclusion fencing.

Deer

Deer may enter gardens, lawns, orchards and revegetation areas from nearby bushland, woodland edges, paddocks or other cover. They feed on a wide range of grasses, shrubs, trees and garden plants and may return regularly where food and shelter remain available.

Observe where the deer enter and the route they take towards the plants or grass they are seeking. Position the sprinkler so it detects them before they reach the feeding area. Where practical, aim the motion sensor across the approach route rather than directly towards the animal.

Check for alternative approaches after installation. Deer may change their route if one entry point becomes unpleasant, so reposition the sprinkler or use additional units where necessary.

Deer are large animals and may damage young trees by browsing, trampling or rubbing against them. For persistent damage, or where valuable plants require dependable protection, use the sprinkler together with suitable guards or deer-exclusion fencing.

Deer may behave aggressively when threatened, especially during breeding periods. Install and adjust the sprinkler when deer are not present, and do not approach or corner them.

Possums

Possums are active mainly at night and often travel along elevated routes such as fences, retaining walls, roofs, pergolas and overhanging branches. They may repeatedly use these routes to reach fruit trees, young growth, vegetable gardens, roof spaces or other attractive areas.

Where practical, intercept the possum along its approach route rather than waiting until it reaches the destination. For example, if possums enter a fruit tree from a nearby fence, position the sprinkler so the animal is detected while travelling along the fence.

Position the motion sensor so the possum moves across its field of view from left to right or right to left. This produces a stronger changing heat signal than movement directly towards the sensor. For possums travelling along the top of a fence, install the sprinkler at the recommended distance from the fence. Please refer to Chapter 6 and the Table “Recommended Sensor Distance to Fence”.

The spray does not necessarily need to strike the possum or pass over the fence. Water striking the fence or nearby ground may create enough sudden movement and sound to cause the possum to retreat. Adjust the spray so it activates close to the possum’s route without unnecessarily spraying neighbouring property.

Check for other access routes, including adjoining roofs, branches and garden structures. If the possum changes its route after installation, reposition the sprinkler or use another unit to protect the alternative approach.

The sprinkler is intended to discourage possums without harming them. Do not trap, relocate or interfere with possums except as permitted by the wildlife laws applying in your state or territory.

For larger areas and full property protection, Sureguard’s Possum Pingg-String Fence may provide a more economical solution;
For details, visit **sureguard.com.au/shop**

Wombats

Wombats are active mainly at night and often use established trails between their burrows, grazing areas and other parts of their home range. Look for well-worn tracks, openings beneath fences and repeated entry points to identify the route being used.

Position the sprinkler so the wombat is detected while travelling along the route, before it reaches a lawn, garden bed, vegetable patch or other area you wish to protect. Where practical, arrange the motion sensor so the wombat moves across its field of view rather than directly towards it.

Wombats are strong and persistent. If one route becomes unpleasant, the animal may try another opening or attempt to push through or dig beneath a fence. Check for new access points and reposition the sprinkler or use additional units if necessary.

Do not use the sprinkler to block access to an occupied burrow or install it where the wombat could feel trapped. Wombats are protected native animals. Do not trap, relocate or otherwise interfere with a wombat except as permitted by the wildlife laws applying in your state or territory.

Foxes

Foxes are active mainly at night and are cautious, adaptable animals that search widely for food. They may be attracted to poultry, pet food, rubbish bins, compost, fallen fruit and other reliable food sources.

Observe where the fox enters and the route it follows towards the attraction. Position the sprinkler so the fox is detected before it reaches the poultry enclosure, rubbish area or other food source. Where practical, arrange the motion sensor so the fox moves across its field of view rather than directly towards it.

Foxes may approach from more than one direction or change their route after being deterred. Check for alternative access points and reposition the sprinkler or use an additional unit if necessary.

Remove or secure anything attracting the fox. Keep rubbish and compost covered, remove uneaten pet food and fallen fruit, and store poultry feed in a secure container. Once a fox discovers a dependable food source, it may return repeatedly.

When protecting poultry, position the sprinkler outside the enclosure so it intercepts the fox on its approach without spraying or repeatedly disturbing the birds.
The sprinkler provides an additional deterrent but should not replace a properly constructed fox-proof enclosure.

Dogs

Dogs may enter gardens and lawns to explore, dig, scent-mark, foul or investigate food and other interesting smells. Observe where the dog enters and the route it follows, then position the sprinkler so it activates before the dog reaches the protected area.

Visiting dogs may retreat quickly from the sudden water, movement and sound, but individual responses vary. If the dog changes its route, check for alternative approaches and reposition the sprinkler or add another unit where necessary.

For a family pet, use the sprinkler to establish a clearly defined no-entry area, such as a vegetable garden or a particular lawn section. Do not position it where the dog must pass to reach food, drinking water, shelter or another essential part of the property.

Some dogs enjoy playing in water, particularly during hot weather. If the dog begins approaching, chasing or biting at the spray, the sprinkler may become a source of play rather than a deterrent. Reposition it, alter the spray pattern or discontinue that application if this occurs.

Digging and other unwanted behaviour by a family dog may result from boredom, insufficient exercise, exploration or other underlying needs. The sprinkler can help protect a particular area, but it should be used together with appropriate exercise, enrichment and reward-based training.

Cats

Cats often patrol familiar territory and may repeatedly use the same fences, paths, walls or garden edges when moving through neighbouring properties. They may enter gardens to explore, hunt, dig in loose soil, toilet or scent-mark.

Observe where the cat enters and the route it follows. Position the sprinkler so the cat is detected before it reaches the garden bed, lawn, sandpit, pond or other protected area. Where practical, arrange the motion sensor so the cat moves across its field of view rather than directly towards it.

Cats often retreat from the sudden water, movement and sound, but individual responses vary. A cat deterred from one route may try another opening, climb a different fence or approach from another side. Check for alternative access points and reposition the sprinkler or add another unit if necessary.

When protecting garden beds used for toileting, aim to cover both the usual approach and the loose soil attracting the cat. Removing faeces and odours, covering exposed soil, or making the surface less suitable for digging can improve the result. Humane guidance also recommends avoiding potentially toxic scent deterrents and considering effects on other animals.

Do not position the sprinkler where a resident cat must pass to reach food, drinking water, shelter or its normal entry to the home.

For larger areas and full property protection, Sureguard's Cat Electronic Fence, called the Pingg-String, may provide a more economical solution;
For details visit **sureguard.com.au/shop**

Chickens and Other Poultry

Chickens and other poultry naturally scratch and forage in loose soil, mulch and garden beds. They may uproot seedlings, scatter mulch, peck plants or create shallow hollows for dust bathing.

Position the sprinkler so the birds encounter the sudden water, movement and sound before they begin feeding or scratching in the protected area. Where practical, place the motion sensor across their usual approach route and protect the whole garden edge so they cannot simply walk around the spray.

Individual birds may respond differently. Most should retreat quickly, while others may become accustomed to the sprinkler or investigate the water, particularly during hot weather. Observe their response and reposition the sprinkler or adjust the spray pattern if necessary.

Only use the sprinkler to protect a clearly defined no-entry area, such as a vegetable garden, landscaped bed, patio or newly planted lawn. Do not place it where the birds must pass to reach their coop, nesting area, food, drinking water, shade or shelter.

Scratching, foraging and dust bathing are important natural behaviours. Provide the birds with another suitable area where these activities are permitted. For dependable protection of valuable plants, use the sprinkler together with suitable garden fencing or plant guards.

Australian Brush-turkeys

Australian Brush-turkeys forage by vigorously raking through leaf litter, mulch and loose soil in search of insects, seeds and fallen fruit. This behaviour can scatter mulch across lawns and paths, uncover roots, uproot seedlings and damage garden beds.

Observe where the bird enters and begins scratching. Position the sprinkler so the brush-turkey is detected before it reaches the garden bed, compost area or other attractive location. Where practical, arrange the motion sensor so the bird moves across its field of view rather than directly towards it.

A broad spray is often useful because brush-turkeys may forage across a wide area rather than remain at one point. Protect the likely approach as well as the garden bed, and check that the bird cannot simply enter from another side.

Male brush-turkeys collect leaves, mulch, soil and other organic material to construct large breeding mounds. It is best to discourage repeated visits before mound building becomes established. Once a mound is active, do not damage, dismantle or obstruct it, or interfere with eggs or chicks. Australian Brush-turkeys are protected native wildlife in New South Wales and fully protected in Queensland. Harming, trapping or relocating them generally requires lawful authority, and requirements differ between states and territories. Contact the relevant wildlife authority or a licensed wildlife professional before taking action other than using a humane deterrent.

If the bird changes its route or begins scratching elsewhere, reposition the sprinkler or use an additional unit to protect the alternative approach.

Cockatoos, Corellas, Galahs, Parrots and Pigeons

Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Corellas, Galahs and Pigeons often feed on or close to the ground. They may be attracted to lawns, newly sown seed, fallen fruit, garden beds, outdoor food areas, livestock feed and other reliable sources of food or water.

Cockatoos and Corellas have powerful beaks and may damage timber structures, outdoor furniture, irrigation fittings, cables, roof materials and other exposed items. Corellas may dig for seeds, roots and bulbs, while cockatoos may damage fruit, flowers, young growth and branches.

Whenever practical, position the sprinkler so birds are detected during their inward flight or landing approach. Birds flying across the motion sensor's detection zones create a stronger changing heat signal than birds already on the ground moving slowly between feeding points. Early interception may also turn away the first arrivals before other birds join them.

Once birds have landed, protect the area where they walk, feed, dig or begin damaging structures. Aim the motion sensor across their likely movement rather than directly towards them. A broad spray is often useful where birds spread across a lawn, garden bed, roof edge or feeding area.

The sprinkler is best suited to birds feeding or moving at ground level, on low structures or along a defined landing approach. It is generally less suitable for birds feeding high in trees. Branches and foliage may obstruct the bird's heat signal, while sun-warmed leaves and branches can reduce the temperature contrast needed for reliable detection.

Watch for alternative landing points. Birds deterred from one side may approach from another, and large flocks may require more than one sprinkler with overlapping detection and spray areas.

Remove or secure food and water that may be attracting the birds. Clean up fallen fruit and spilled seed, cover feed containers and rubbish, and discourage deliberate feeding. A reliable food source can encourage repeated visits and make deterrence more difficult.

Most native Cockatoos, Corellas, Galahs and parrots are protected wildlife. Use the sprinkler only as a humane deterrent. Do not harm, trap, relocate or interfere with birds, nests, eggs or young except as permitted by the wildlife laws applying in your state or territory.

Animals We Do Not Recommend

The sprinkler is not recommended for snakes, lizards or frogs because its motion sensor may not detect them reliably; see Chapter 6.

For snake control, Sureguard manufactures dedicated Snake Repellents. Visit www.sureguard.com.au/shop.

CHAPTER 6 — UNDERSTANDING THE MOTION SENSOR

The sprinkler uses a Passive Infrared (PIR) Motion Sensor to detect animals. Although commonly called a “motion sensor”, it does not work like a camera; it responds to a moving source of heat. Understanding this principle will help you position the sprinkler correctly, reduce false triggering and achieve more reliable detection.

What Does the Motion Sensor Detect?

Every warm-blooded animal gives off infrared heat, and the motion sensor responds when that heat signal changes within its field of view. The sensor views a wide area through three vertical detection bands, each covering approximately 110 degrees from left to right.

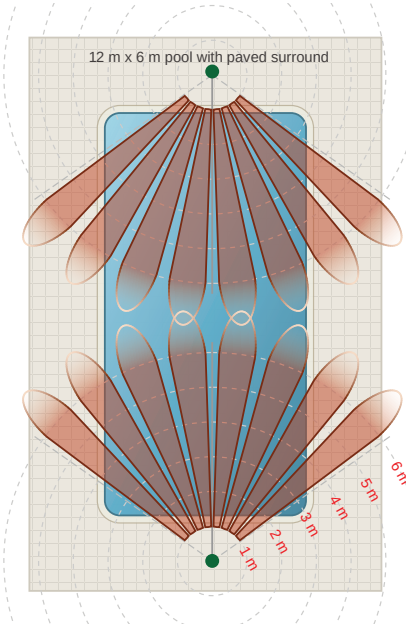
The lower band is aimed downwards towards the ground or water surface close to the sprinkler and contains 11 detection zones. The middle band looks outward along the ground and contains 8 zones for detecting animals farther ahead at ground level. The upper band is aimed upwards and contains 5 zones for detecting animals moving along raised routes such as fences.

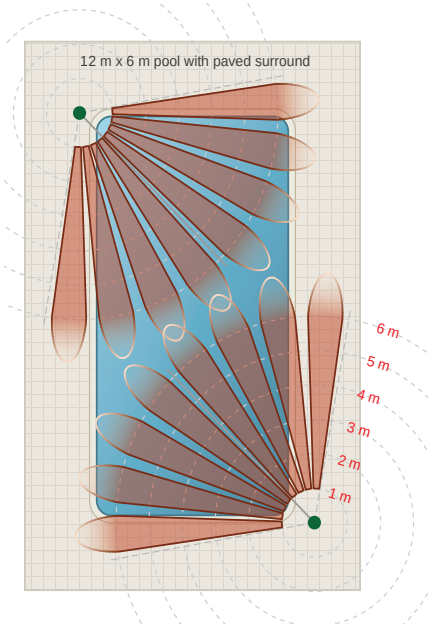
Each zone focuses heat from a narrow part of the scene onto the sensor. As an animal moves from one zone to the next, its heat signal, at the sensor, rises and falls. The sprinkler recognises this changing signal as movement. Animals moving across the field of view from left to right or right to left usually cross several zones and are therefore detected more reliably than animals moving directly towards the sensor.

Cold-blooded animals such as snakes, lizards and frogs usually have body temperatures much closer to their surroundings and are therefore unlikely to trigger the motion sensor reliably.

How the Detection Zones Cover an Area

The first two illustrations show a 12 m by 6 m pool protected by two sprinklers. The orange segments represent the eight zones in the middle detection band of each motion sensor.





The sensor responds to a change in heat as a bird moves from one detection zone to another. Passing through only one zone may not create enough change to activate the sprinkler. For reliable detection, the bird should cross at least two zones.

In the first illustration, the sprinklers are positioned at opposite ends of the pool. This provides broad coverage, but a bird flying directly towards either sensor may remain within a single zone for much of its approach and may not be detected.

In the second illustration, the sprinklers are offset by approximately 45 degrees. This increases the likelihood that an approaching bird will cross several zones. However, a bird flying directly towards either sensor may still follow a less favourable path and cross too few zones for reliable detection.

This is normal PIR motion sensor behaviour rather than a fault. When positioning the sprinklers, consider the birds' likely flight directions and arrange the sensors so the birds cross the detection zones wherever practical.

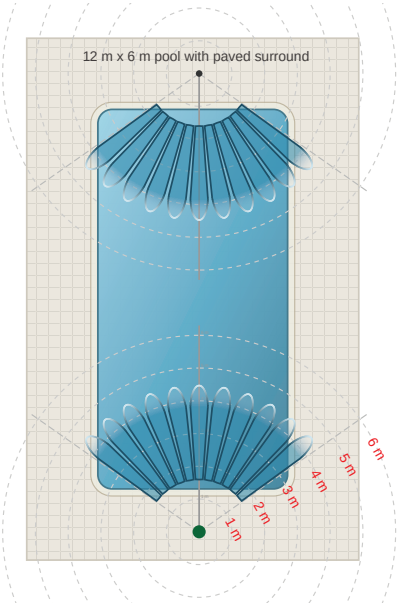
The third illustration shows the area viewed by the lower band. Because this band is angled downwards, its detection distance is shorter. A duck that reaches the pool may therefore move some distance on the water before being detected.

Why Some Animals Are Detected More Easily Than Others

Several factors influence detection:

- The size of the animal's warm areas.
- How quickly it is moving.
- The Sensitivity Control setting.
- The temperature difference between the animal and its surroundings.

A larger animal generally presents a stronger heat signal than a smaller animal. For example, a person may be detected at 9 metres or more, while an animal or bird may need to be closer. A fast-moving animal is also generally detected more easily than one moving slowly. This is why a duck flying towards a pool may be detected farther away than the same duck walking or swimming.



Positioning the Sensor for Animals Travelling Along a Fence

The upper detection band views upwards and can be used to detect possums and other animals travelling along the top of a fence. Install the sprinkler upright in the ground in the normal manner. Do not tilt the sprinkler upwards; the motion sensor lens already directs the upper detection band at the required upward angle.

The middle and lower detection bands remain active at the same time. This means the sprinkler can still detect the animal approaching at ground level or moving through nearby plants, while the upper band monitors the fence route.

The sprinkler must be positioned at an appropriate distance from the fence so the upper detection band intersects the fence near its top. Use the following distances as a starting guide:

Measure horizontally from the front of the Motion Sensor to the fence. Small adjustments may be required because ground level, fence construction and the animal's exact route can affect detection.

Recommended Sensor Distance to Fence	
Fence Height	**Sensor to Fence**
1.5m	2.8m +/- 0.4m
1.8m	3.8m +/- 0.6m
2.1m	4.2m +/- 0.7m

Across Is Better Than Towards

The motion sensor performs best when an animal moves across the detection area. When an animal moves directly towards the sensor, it may cross fewer detection zones, reducing the changing heat signal and detection distance. Whenever practical, position the sprinkler so animals cross the viewing area rather than approach it head-on.

Understanding Activation Delay

You may notice a short delay between an animal entering the detection area and the sprinkler activating. This is normal and occurs for two reasons.

First, the animal must move across at least two detection zones for the sensor to recognise a changing heat signal. The time this takes depends mainly on the animal's speed and direction of travel.

Second, after the sensor detects the animal, the electronics must build a brief, high-energy pulse to open the water valve against the pressure of the water supply. Generating this pulse can take about two seconds.

This is one reason the sprinkler requires good-quality alkaline batteries. The valve needs a short burst of power, which some other battery types or lower-performing batteries may not provide reliably. If the activation delay becomes noticeably longer during routine testing, replace both batteries even if the Low Battery Indicator has not illuminated.

Understanding Detection Distance

Unlike water throw, there is no single detection distance that applies to every situation. For many target animals, reliable detection is typically achieved up to about 6 metres, after which detection gradually reduces. This is a guide rather than a fixed limit.

Fast-moving animals may be detected at this distance, while slow-moving animals or those with small warm areas may need to be much closer. Plan the installation around an effective interception point rather than relying on the maximum possible detection distance.

Why Setting 9 Is Recommended

Begin with the Sensitivity Control at Setting 9. Maximum sensitivity gives the Motion Sensor the greatest opportunity to detect the animal early. Reduce sensitivity only if repeated false triggering occurs or if you deliberately need a shorter detection range. Reducing sensitivity should usually be the last adjustment, not the first.

Understanding False Triggering

The motion sensor may occasionally activate when no animal is present because it detects moving heat patterns. A useful example is the shimmering air, or mirage, above a hot road on a sunny day.

Similar moving heat patterns can occur where sun-warmed surfaces are exposed to a breeze. They may also occur in cold conditions when warmer air currents move across the detection zones.

Moving vegetation can also cause false triggering, particularly when leaves and the background are at different temperatures. Redirect the sensor away from the heat source or trim vegetation where practical.

If repeated false triggering occurs, Sureguard recommends using Water-Saving Mode before reducing sensitivity.

Water-Saving Mode (Intelligent Sensing Technology)

Water-Saving Mode helps reduce unnecessary activation caused by non-target heat movement, such as sunlit foliage moving in the wind. This sort of activation may only happen at certain times, depending on the angle of the sun.

If the sprinkler activates three times within one minute, it will pause for five minutes to conserve water. Normal operation resumes automatically after the pause.

To enable this operating mode, remove the batteries and lift off the Sensor Cap so the light sensor underneath registers the ambient light level during reset. Reinsert the batteries, then refit the Sensor Cap for 24-hour operation.

To manually cancel a five-minute pause, lift off the Sensor Cap, wait five seconds, then refit it.

To exit Water-Saving Mode completely, remove the batteries, pass your hand in front of the sensor to discharge any internal residual power. Finally, **and this order is important**, refit the Sensor Cap then reinstall the batteries.

Birds and the Motion Sensor

Bird detection depends strongly on how the bird enters the protected area. A bird flying across the detection zones is usually detected more reliably than a bird already on the ground, walking slowly through a garden or swimming in a pool. Where practical, position the sprinkler to detect birds during their approach. Small birds, such as swallows, may be detected only within about 3 metres.
Sureguard offers other bird deterrents at
www.sureguard.com.au/shop/category/bird-scarers-10.

Prioritise Position Over Maximum Distance

A well-positioned sprinkler that intercepts the animal before it reaches the reward will usually outperform one positioned solely to maximise detection distance. Good planning is more important than maximum range.

The Motion Sensor Is Only Part of the System

The Motion Sensor decides when to activate the sprinkler. Once activated, Water + Noise + Motion create the deterrent. Successful installations therefore depend on sprinkler position, spray coverage and understanding how the target animal approaches the protected area.

CHAPTER 7 — TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

Most issues can be resolved by working through the following checks.

The Sprinkler Doesn't Activate

If the Motion Sensor doesn't activate the sprinkler, work through the following checks.

- Confirm the Sensitivity Control is not set to 0 (OFF/Standby). For normal operation the control should be rotated fully clockwise to Setting 9.
- Confirm that the Sensor Cap covers its light sensor. Without the cap, the sprinkler is in night-only mode and will not respond during daylight.
- Check that the batteries are correctly installed. If necessary, replace them; when batteries are fully exhausted, the Low Battery Indicator may no longer illuminate.
- Ensure the internal battery cover is fitted securely. Without it, vibration may allow the batteries to lose contact.
- Inspect and clean the battery-holder contacts if they appear dirty or corroded.
- With the water supply turned OFF, move your hand slowly across the Motion Sensor at a distance of approximately 20–50 cm. Listen for the internal water valve clicking ON, followed about 4 seconds later by a second click as it turns OFF.
- If you hear both clicks, the electronics are operating correctly.
- If there is no click, replace the batteries with a fresh pair of AA alkaline batteries, waiting at least 60 seconds after removing the old batteries, and repeat the test.

The Sprinkler Sprays as Soon as the Water Is Connected

The water valve is open when it should be closed. This is usually resolved by:

- Check that the batteries are installed in the correct orientation and are making proper contact.

- Turn off the tap, disconnect the hose and release any remaining pressure. Remove the batteries and wait at least 60 seconds before reinstalling them or fitting a fresh pair, then test the sprinkler again. If two or three reset attempts are unsuccessful, debris may be preventing the valve from closing.

How Do I Clear Debris in the Water Valve?

Debris in the water valve may cause a constant dribble or continuous full spray. Use the following backflow procedure to clear it and make sure you have batteries installed and the Sensor Cap ⑯ covering the Night Mode Sensor ⑮:

- Disconnect the hose.
- Remove the sprinkler head from the body.
- Remove the Inlet Water Filter.
- Screw a tap hose connector onto the outlet on top of the Body, as shown in the image.
- Connect the hose and turn on the water so it flows backwards through the outlet. Allow it to run for 10 seconds.
- Set sensitivity to 9 and activate the motion sensor. Triggering the valve to open during backflow may help dislodge debris.
- Repeat a few times.
- Disconnect the hose and reattach to the normal Inlet.
- Switch on the water and activate the sprinkler. If the sprinkler head still leaks, repeat the cleaning procedure.
- If you cannot get it to clear, please contact Sureguard Technical Support.

The Sprinkler Activates Too Often

- Occasional activation caused by animals is normal. If the sprinkler activates when no animal is present, check for moving plants or branches in the sensor's field of view. Warm surfaces combined with moving air can create changing heat patterns, similar to the shimmering air above a hot road. False triggering can also occur in cold conditions where moving currents of warmer air cross the detection zones.
- Redirect the motion sensor away from the heat source or trim obstructing vegetation. For occasional environmental triggering, use the water-saving mode described in Chapter 6. Reduce sensitivity only as a last resort.

- To determine whether the triggering is environmental or caused by the sprinkler itself, disconnect the hose, shake out any remaining water and take the sprinkler indoors. Leave the Sensitivity Control at Setting 9. Place the sprinkler firmly on a stable surface with the Motion Sensor facing a plain wall, where nothing in its field of view can move or change temperature rapidly. Monitor it continuously for several hours and note whether any false triggering occurs; it should remain inactive. Periodically move your hand across the Motion Sensor to confirm that it still detects movement and the internal valve operates normally.

The Water Spray Is Weak

- Confirm the garden tap is fully open.
- Check that the garden hose is not kinked, restricted or leaking.
- Inspect the In-line Water Filter ⑲ and flush away any accumulated dirt or debris.
- If water pressure is low, use a shorter hose or a larger 18 mm hose to help maintain flow. The sprinkler is designed to operate between 30 psi (0.2 MPa) and 80 psi (0.6 MPa).
- Also confirm the Spray Spread Adjustment has not been set to produce an unnecessarily broad spray.

Water Leaks from the Body

- Most leaks from this joint occur because the In-line Water Filter ⑲ is not fully seated. Turn off the tap, release pressure and disconnect the hose. Remove the Connecting Shaft and inspect the filter. The rubber seal must be undamaged, square and fully pressed into its housing. Because the seal works on two faces, a high or tilted filter may allow the joint to feel tight without sealing correctly. Reassemble the sprinkler using Chapter 3 — Assembly & Initial Adjustment.
- Also inspect the O-ring between the Connecting Shaft and the Ground Spike to ensure it is present and undamaged.
- If your property has unusually high water pressure, a pressure reducer may improve long-term operation. Most domestic installations do not require one.

Birds Are Not Being Detected Reliably

- Birds flying into the protected area are generally detected much more reliably than birds already on the ground. If birds are landing outside the detection area and then slowly walking towards the protected area, move the sprinkler so they are intercepted during their landing approach.
- For swimming pools and ponds, positioning the sprinkler to detect birds before they land usually produces the best results.

Animals Reach the Protected Area Before the Sprinkler Activates

A fast-moving animal may reach the protected area during the normal activation delay. Move the sprinkler farther along the approach route so detection occurs earlier, and position the sensor so the animal crosses its field of view where practical.

The Sprinkler Doesn't Detect Animals as Far Away as Expected

Spray distance and detection distance are different. Detection varies with the size of the animal's warm areas, its speed and direction, the Sensitivity Control setting and temperature contrast with the surroundings. For many target animals, reliable detection is typically achieved up to about 6 metres and then gradually reduces. Fast-moving animals are generally detected farther away than slow-moving animals.

The Sprinkler Continues Running After the Animal Has Gone

The sprinkler is designed to continue spraying for about four seconds after activation. This is normal and helps maintain the deterrent while the animal moves away. If the water does not stop completely, you may have debris caught in the water valve. Use the clearance procedure outlined earlier in this chapter.

The Internal Valve Clicks But No Water Comes Out

The click confirms the electronics are operating correctly.

Check that:

- The garden tap is fully open.
- The garden hose is connected correctly.
- The hose is not kinked.
- The In-line Water Filter is not blocked.
- The water supply is available.

The Internal Valve Does No longer Clicks When Batteries Are Changed

In some damp environments, the light sensor, used for night-mode, may gradually absorb moisture after several years of use. There may be no visible sign of damage or deterioration, but the moisture can interfere with the normal valve operation.

When batteries are inserted, with the Sensor Cap fitted over the light sensor and the Sensitivity Control set to 9, the sprinkler should reset the valve automatically. You should normally hear two clicks a few seconds apart as the valve opens and then closes. This is normal.

If this does not occur, bring the sprinkler indoors and lift the Sensor Cap. Place the sprinkler in a warm, dry location to allow the absorbed moisture to evaporate. Gentle sunlight or warmth from a heater may be used, but keep the sprinkler dry and do not allow its temperature to exceed 50°C. Do not place it in an oven or apply intense heat directly.

Drying may take several days. Afterwards, allow the sprinkler to return to room temperature, refit the Sensor Cap, set the Sensitivity Control to 9 and reinstall the batteries. Listen for the two valve clicks to confirm that the normal reset has been restored.

The Low Battery Indicator Is On

Replace both AA alkaline batteries with a fresh pair, waiting at least 60 seconds after removing the old batteries before installing the new set. Do not mix old and new batteries or different battery types. Battery life is typically up to 12 months but depends on how frequently the sprinkler is activated.

I Have More Than One Sprinkler Connected

It is normal for only the sprinkler nearest the animal to activate. Although multiple sprinklers can be connected, it is uncommon for every sprinkler to operate at the same time because animals usually trigger only the units closest to their location.

I Still Need Assistance

If you still need assistance, please contact Sureguard Technical Support.

CHAPTER 8 — PROPER USE & CARE

The sprinkler is designed for many years of reliable outdoor operation. A few simple checks occasionally will help maintain performance.

Safety

- All persons who use the sprinkler should read this Owner's Guide before operating the product.
- Do not allow children to operate or play with the sprinkler.
- Do not dismantle the product.

Batteries

- The sprinkler operates from two AA alkaline batteries. Battery life is typically up to 12 months, depending on how frequently the sprinkler is activated. The Low Battery Indicator will illuminate when the batteries must be replaced. When batteries are fully exhausted, the indicator will no longer illuminate.
- Always replace both batteries at the same time. Do not mix old and new batteries or different battery types.
- After removing batteries, wait at least 60 seconds before installing new ones.
- If the sprinkler will not be used for an extended period, remove the batteries before storage to prevent possible damage from battery leakage.

Checking the Motion Sensor

- Occasionally test the motion sensor with the water supply turned off. Move your hand slowly across the front of the sensor. The internal valve should click open and then close a few seconds later. This confirms that the electronics are operating without using water.
- Confirm that the sprinkler still views and sprays the intended area.

Water Supply

- Always flush the garden hose before connecting it to the sprinkler. Garden hoses can contain dirt, sand, insects and other debris that can eventually affect the internal water valve.
- Before reconnecting the sprinkler after it has been disconnected for any length of time, flush the hose again before attaching it.
- Do not use bore, dam, salt or brackish water. Connect the sprinkler to drinking-quality mains water only.

In-line Water Filter

- The In-line Water Filter provides final protection for the internal water valve. If water flow is reduced, disconnect the hose and inspect the filter. Flush away accumulated debris, then refit the filter fully into its housing so the rubber seal forms a watertight joint.

Seasonal Checks

- Outdoor conditions change throughout the year. Growing grass, plants and foliage can obstruct the motion sensor or increase unwanted triggering. Inspect the installation periodically, trim vegetation where necessary.

Winter Usage and Storage

- If the sprinkler is not required during part of the year, turn the water off and activate the sprinkler by hand first to depressurise the hose, then disconnect the garden hose, remove the batteries, shake any residual water free and store the sprinkler in a clean, dry location.
- If the temperature is expected to drop below 0°C at any time, store the sprinkler indoors to prevent damage from freezing. If damage occurs, visit the Sureguard website for replacement parts.
- Before returning it to service, inspect the In-line Water Filter, flush the garden hose and perform the motion sensor test described earlier in this chapter.

Cleaning

- If necessary, wipe the outside of the sprinkler with a soft damp cloth.
- Do not use solvents, petroleum-based cleaners or abrasive cleaning products.

- Avoid directing high-pressure water onto the Motion Sensor or Battery Compartment.

Looking After Your Installation

- As your garden changes over time, it is worth spending a few minutes observing how animals continue to approach the protected area.
- Small adjustments to the sprinkler position or spray pattern may occasionally be beneficial as plants grow or the layout of the garden changes.

CHAPTER 9 — FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will the Motion Sensor work at night?

Yes. The motion sensor detects changing infrared heat and does not rely on visible light.

How many sprinklers do I need?

Use enough units to intercept every likely approach. One may be sufficient for a confined route; larger areas, long pools or several entry points may require several overlapping units. See Chapter 4.

Will it detect animals 10 metres away?

The 10 metre figure is a typical maximum water-throw distance, not a detection range. Detection varies with animal size, speed, direction and temperature contrast.

Should sensitivity normally be reduced?

No. Start at Setting 9, it is the best setting. Reduce it only when a shorter sensor range is specifically required.

Why was a bird not detected?

Where practical, position the unit to cover the bird's flight or landing approach. See Chapters 5 and 6.

Why is it activating when nothing is visible?

Moving foliage or changing heat patterns can trigger the motion sensor. Trim or remove vegetation within its field of view, redirect the sensor's view away from the source, or use the water-saving mode described in Chapter 6. Reduce the sensitivity only as a last resort.

Does the water need to reach the animal?

No. The spray does not always need to reach the animal. Many animals retreat when they see or hear the approaching water.

Can more than one sprinkler be connected?

Yes. Use the Daisy Chain Outlet ❼ on the Ground Spike. Actual performance depends on available water pressure and flow.

Why does it still activate occasionally after working for months?

New animals must encounter the deterrent for themselves. Occasional activation is therefore normal.

Why does it not deter the animals?

Unusual sites or animal behaviour may require advice specific to the property.

Contact Sureguard Technical Support if the guidance in this manual does not resolve the issue.

CHAPTER 10 — SPARE PARTS

The sprinkler is designed to provide many years of reliable service. If a component becomes damaged or worn, a range of genuine replacement parts is available.

Using genuine Sureguard replacement parts helps maintain the original performance of the sprinkler and ensures the replacement component is compatible with your model.

Replacement Parts

Replacement parts that may be ordered through the Sureguard shop:

- Ground Spike
- Connecting Shaft
- In-line Water Filter
- Battery Compartment Covers

. **www.sureguard.com.au/shop/category/sprinkler-repellent-66**

CHAPTER 11 — WARRANTY

Sureguard warrants that the ScareCrow Sprinkler is free from defects in materials and workmanship for 12 months from the date of purchase. This warranty is provided in addition to your rights under the Australian Consumer Law, which are described in the following chapter.

For the fastest assessment and assistance, we recommend contacting Sureguard Technical Support first. As the manufacturer, Sureguard can help determine whether the issue concerns installation, product operation, a replaceable component or a possible product defect. Contact details are provided on page 1.

You may also contact the retailer from which you purchased the product. Nothing in this warranty limits your rights against the retailer or Sureguard under the Australian Consumer Law.

CHAPTER 12 — AUSTRALIAN CONSUMER LAW GUARANTEE

Our products come with guarantees that cannot be excluded under the Australian Consumer Law.

The Australian Consumer Law provides important rights and remedies that apply in addition to the Sureguard warranty described in the previous chapter.

The following statement is prescribed by Australian Consumer Law and explains your statutory rights.

Our goods come with guarantees that cannot be excluded under the Australian Consumer Law. You are entitled to a replacement or refund for a major failure and compensation for any other reasonably foreseeable loss or damage. You are also entitled to have the goods repaired or replaced if the goods fail to be of acceptable quality and the failure does not amount to a major failure.

CHAPTER 13 — WEBSITE TERMS & CONDITIONS

This Owner's Guide explains how to install, operate and maintain the Sureguard ScareCrow Sprinkler safely and effectively.

Additional information relating to product use, warranty claims, limitations of liability, returns, product updates and other important information is published in the Sureguard Terms & Conditions available at:
www.sureguard.com.au/page/terms.

We recommend reading these Terms & Conditions as they form part of the conditions of sale and contain important information that complements this Owner's Guide.

Thank You

Thank you for choosing a Sureguard product.

Sureguard is an Australian owned business that has been developing humane animal deterrents for over 30 years and is committed to designing products that are effective, reliable and easy to use.

We hope your ScareCrow Sprinkler provides many years of successful protection for your property.