



# Keeping Cool Naturally

## Termite Mounds

Towering several meters high, it's astonishing to realize that these mounds are built from the ground up by tiny insects. What makes termite mounds even more fascinating is their advanced air conditioning systems. The termites create a clever arrangement of air pockets that facilitate ventilation through convection, allowing the interior of the mound to remain surprisingly cool, even in the sweltering heat outside.

## Pros/Cons & How to Mimic

## Prairie Dogs

Prairie dogs dig underground for predator protection but face cramped conditions in their burrows. To improve ventilation, they create multiple openings, including ground-level entrances and small towers. Breezes passing over the towers help remove warm, stale air from the burrows.

## Pros/Cons & How to Mimic

## Elephants

What do elephants, hares, and rabbits share in common? The answer lies in their large ears, which functions to help them stay cool. Hares and rabbits manage their body temperature through their ears, adjusting blood vessel size based on the surrounding temperature. Elephants enhance this cooling process by flapping their ears to regulate blood flow, and they even spray water on them for an extra cooling effect.

## Pros/Cons & How to Mimic

## Cape Ground Squirrels

Most of us are used to seeing squirrels, which live in trees in cooler climates and have no shortage of tree shelter. This is a different type of squirrel altogether. Cape ground squirrels live on the dry plains of Africa, a habitat very different to the local, shady park. They have their own way of keeping cool. Much like an umbrella, these critters use their bushy tails as a portable shade to keep the hot sun off their backs.

## Pros/Cons & How to Mimic

