

Look up! Do you see what we are working on? It's our dream home! Japanese squirrels like us utilize two types of homes. Sometimes, we use cavities in tree trunks; other times we put together dreys (leaf nests) way up high on tree branches.

Tree cavity dens are solid and dependable, and definitely make the best homes. You have to be a pretty lucky squirrel to find one, though—even in forests with lots of huge trees, tree hollows aren't very plentiful.

If you ever see a great, big, round-looking leafy ball way high up in a tree, that's probably a squirrel's leaf nest. Good luck spying one, though—they often blend right in with a tree's leaves.

Squirrel Nesting Behavior

Japanese squirrels build nests, or dreys, in forks in the trees, where a thick branch meets the trunk. With a base of approximately 50 centimeters, the outer nest is covered in twigs and thin branches, while the inside is filled with softer materials, like dried grass, bark and feathers. Even at 50 centimeters across, a squirrel's nest is often invisible to passersby in a tree with thick foliage. Aside from the dreys set high in trees, Japanese squirrels also build tree cavity dens in hollow tree trunks.