

# Protect Trees from Gypsy Moth with Sticky Barrier Bands

Make barrier bands using duct tape and petroleum jelly to prevent movement of gypsy moth caterpillars up and down the tree.

In counties (like Roscommon) with a spray treatment program, wait one week after the spray to apply barrier bands.

## STEP 1: Wrap the tree trunk with duct tape.

- Bark should be dry.
- Place your band at chest height – about 4 feet above the ground.
- Wrap 3 overlapping bands of duct tape sticky side down toward the bark, pressing the tape firmly into the bark cracks. Your band should be about 6" wide.
- \* On paper birch, place a layer of plastic between the duct tape and the tree to avoid harming the bark.



Bob Queen, WI DNR

## STEP 2: Smear a thin coat of petroleum jelly along the center of the band.

- Allow at least 2 inches of uncoated band under the jelly as it can melt and flow downward, potentially harming the tree.
- \*Avoid using extremely sticky material or a thick application of petroleum jelly, as these can as trap or harm unintended animals like birds.

## STEP 3: Maintain barrier bands.

- In the evening when temperatures cool, wear gloves or use a paintbrush to knock gathered caterpillars into a bucket of soapy water and let sit for 24 hours.
- Clear debris from the band as needed.
- Apply more petroleum jelly as needed; check especially after a rain.
- Take the barrier bands down in August after the gypsy moth caterpillars have pupated. (Remove bands before winter to avoid damaging trees.)

SOURCE: University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension

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For more information on gypsy moth, visit the Roscommon County Gypsy Moth Program:  
[www.roscommoncounty.net/218/Gypsy-Moth-Program](http://www.roscommoncounty.net/218/Gypsy-Moth-Program)