

# ***Over the Hedge*** Reviewer's Guide

Nintendo GameCube  
PlayStation 2  
Xbox

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## Introduction

In the deadpan, upside down world of ***Over the Hedge***, talking animals are sane and humans are plain crazy. Thankfully, you'll be able to cast off your humanity and play as a turtle, squirrel, racoon or skunk in the adventure of a lifetime.

Based upon the highly anticipated animated movie, ***Over the Hedge*** is a fast-paced adventure that takes gamers far beyond the movie's storyline. You can play it alone, switching between your favorite characters, or you can play it cooperatively with a friend.

The game's premise is classic animated film action adventure. A family of woodland creatures wakes up from hibernation one spring to find a mysterious green leafy hedge along the edge of their home. Suddenly, RJ the raccoon pops out and introduces the animals to what is on the other side - the luxuries of suburbia such as raiding trash cans and eating human food.

Unfortunately, an overzealous human decides to end this "vermin infestation" and hires an exterminator with a penchant for mind control and particularly nasty traps. In order to escape, the animals have to dodge traps and avoid obstacles. And if that's not enough, after his first traps backfire, Dwayne the exterminator raises the stakes by inventing a mind-control cap that pits animal against animal!

***Over the Hedge*** supplements the movie's funny and ironic themes with gameplay that is deeper and more sophisticated than any other family entertainment game. Parents will appreciate that little gamers will have to utilize their brains to solve basic puzzles and think their way through multiple jams.

We hope you have a delightful time playing ***Over the Hedge***. And we encourage you to play it cooperatively with your child or a friend. As always, if you have any questions, comments, or requests, please feel free to contact us.

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### 4 reasons kids (and adults) will love ***Over the Hedge***

In ***Over the Hedge***, players interact with the entire cast of the film and new characters unique to the game. A fast-paced adventure spanning more than 10 unique locations awaits both children and adults alike.

- ✓ **Parents can play cooperatively with their kids.** This is one of the rare youth-oriented titles with a full-fledged cooperative play mode. This means parents can play as one of two characters, and their child can play as the other. It's a true joint adventure!
- ✓ **Sophisticated and diverse gameplay.** Many kids' games feature extremely basic play mechanics. Not so with ***Over the Hedge***. The gameplay is remarkably sophisticated and extremely varied with advanced combat moves, puzzle-solving, acrobatic jumping challenges, and more.
- ✓ **Mini-games!** ***Over the Hedge*** allows players to gain access to three different mini-games, including a suburban miniature golf course and remote control car races.
- ✓ **Collectibles.** There are numerous opportunities for players to grab collectible items. Kids will love trying to grab them all.
- ✓ **It's funny.** Like the best animated movies, ***Over the Hedge*** is an often hilarious blend of wacky characters, slapstick humor, and biting sarcasm.

## Meet the Characters

**Verne the Turtle** – Caring, selfless and hardworking, Verne is also neurotic and insecure. As the leader of our animal community, Verne wants to protect his “family” at all costs. To him, this means maintaining the status quo. But as RJ’s cool charisma slowly wins over the other animals, Verne begins to question himself and what’s truly best for his family.

**RJ the Raccoon** – A charming small-time scavenger, RJ takes life – and everything else – as it comes. But when he takes a little too much, his carefree life is threatened. To get out of this mess, he has to make the haul of a lifetime, conning a truly lovable bunch of animals in the process. Can he really break their hearts to save his own hide?

**Hammy the Squirrel** – Hammy’s childlike innocence comes with a full dose of childlike hyperactivity and a bracing way of innocently speaking the truth. Hammy practically vibrates with enthusiastic energy. Not the brightest bulb, but charming and sweetly naive.

**Stella the Skunk** – Stella feels that nature dealt her a lousy hand. After all, her talent is that she stinks and it’s given her a cynical outlook on the world. Stella tolerates no fools but she’s especially hard on herself. Although, when given the chance to save her animal friends and home, Stella truly struts her stuff!

**Vincent** – Vincent the bear can be pretty grumpy when someone wakes him up from hibernation. RJ finds this out the hard way and has a lot of explaining to do. One thing is for certain, mess with a bear’s food and he won’t forget it!

**Dwayne the Exterminator** – With a single-minded goal of eliminating all vermin from the human world, Dwayne won’t rest until his work is done! Traps, lasers and motion detectors are only a few of his methods. Even more dangerous, he’s now fit many critters with mind-control caps that force them to do Dwayne’s bidding and attack any member of Verne’s animal family.

**Gladys** – Gladys is the president of the Rancho Camelot Estates Homeowners Association. She rules with an iron fist and isn’t about to let a bunch of filthy vermin overrun her home. She enlists Dwayne the Exterminator to do her bidding to once and for all rid Camelot Estates of the animal invasion.

## Playing *Over the Hedge*

To get started, select “New game” from the menu.

After a funny cut scene where you’ll meet the game’s main characters and get an over-arching idea of the mission’s objective (they usually involve getting food from humans), you’ll be thrown right into the thick of things in Gladys’ back yard.

Gladys is the president of the Rancho Camelot Estates Homeowners Association and a fairly high-strung woman. You definitely don’t want to get caught.

A short fly-by will illustrate your path. Your first goal is to make it to the kitchen.

As you play through this first mission, you’ll receive tips about combat, stealth, and more.

### Key Concepts

Before we enter the heart of this mission, here’s a quick introduction to some of the game’s key concepts:

- **Attack everything.** The first tip you receive will teach you how to attack. You can attack not only enemy units but also boxes, crates, and many other inanimate objects. When in doubt, give a box a whack. You’ll often be rewarded with items that will increase your health levels, your power, or other attributes.
- **Switch characters.** At any time during play, you can switch between characters. Press R2 on PS2, ‘Z’ on GameCube, “Black” on Xbox. Each character has a unique fighting style and unique special attacks.
- **Double up.** During combat, you may find it advantageous to stack your characters on top of each other. Simply jump onto the shoulders of the AI-controller character.
- **Health.** At the top of the screen are two meters for each character. The top meter next to the heart icon represents your characters’ health. As you take damage from enemies, this gauge will be reduced. Once it reaches zero, your character passes out. If this happens, you can wake them up by switching to the other character and quickly attacking your buddy.

### The Woods

In *Over the Hedge*, the woods are a safe haven where your characters can frolic and play with the loot you grab for them. You can also advance the story or play any mini-games you’ve unlocked from here.

Here are the various actions you can take:

**Choose a Level to Play** – To explore a new area in the neighborhood, go to the corkboard and access the Game Mode menu. Move and highlight the Game Mode you want to play. Select a new mission or play a mini game. You can also scroll through the pages of levels that you have unlocked.

**Choose a Character** – To change the characters you’re using, get near the playable character of your choice and press the SWITCH Button.

**Examine your Loot** – Items you’ve found in the neighborhood will appear in the Woods. All looted items will activate when you get close to them. Put on a collected hat by moving to the Hat Rack Tree and view then select your hat.

***Hint:** As you maneuver around the woods, pay attention to the conversations your friends are having. They’re often hilarious.*

Okay, back to the gameplay. Again, your goal is to make it to Gladys' kitchen. Follow the path until you reach the back porch. Avoid the laser lights. (Doing so will net you a nice end-of-mission bonus.)

A short cut scene sheds some light on your goal: a stone statue of a frog. You're going to need to grab the frog – located by the fence – and drag it over to the pedestal to your left. Feel free to destroy any and all objects in the backyard; doing so will net you some nice bonuses.

### **Through the fence**

Once you place the frog statue onto the weight-sensitive podium, you'll open a fence door. Make your through the fence. Time for some target practice!

One of the ways in which you'll attack enemy varmints and inanimate objects is by using your characters' ranged attacks, namely golf clubs (or hockey pucks, boomerangs, and even flying disks, depending on your character). Press the ranged attack button ("O" on PS2, "X" on Xbox, "B" on NGC) and use your left analog to move the targeting reticule. This is an excellent method for attacking enemies who are at a distance.

Follow the birdie's advice and destroy the bird houses (two in the first alcove, three in the second) using your ranged attack until you find the key. Be careful of traps – one nasty one (modeled after, ahem, a dog's rear end) will put you to sleep. Pick up the key when you find it and make your way to the locked door on the other side of the yard.

**Tip:** As you play through *Over the Hedge*, you'll have numerous opportunities to unlock all kinds of extra content. As an example, in the gazebo in this back yard, there's a DVD. Each disc unlocks extra content accessible from the main menu.

**Tip:** Grabbing cans of chips or boxes of cookies can have a permanent impact on your characters' maximum health and energy levels. Collecting 20 cans of chips will give you an extra point of health. Collecting 20 boxes of cookies will give you an extra point of energy.

### **Through the next fence**

Make your way to the locked fence. Unlock it and you'll find yourself in Gladys' backyard. A nasty field of laser trips is in front of you. Triggering these trip wires will result in a nasty and unpleasant surprise. To navigate these laser traps, simply jump over them. Several portions of ***Over the Hedge*** will challenge players' jumping skills in this manner.

As you make your way through the lasers, you'll likely experience your first taste of combat, courtesy of a pack of crazed rats. You can make four types of attack moves:

- **Standard attack:** Use the ATTACK button.
- **Lunge attack:** Press and hold the ATTACK button for a second, then release it.
- **Energy attack:** Press the ENERGY ATTACK button. (Consumes a small amount of energy.)
- **Spinning energy attack:** Press and hold the ENERGY ATTACK button, then release.

There's a DVD hidden in the flower beds to your left as you move past the lasers. Once you've bypassed the lasers and the rats, continue moving forward. Make sure you sample the tasty slice of pizza in the cooler – it will replenish your entire health meter.

To the right of the cooler is another series of laser trips. Bypassing these will require you to double-jump (press JUMP, then JUMP again while in mid-air). Make sure you pick up the nacho chips you find as you go; they'll replenish one dot on your health meter.

You'll find Stella the Skunk at the end of this gauntlet. Nice going – you just finished your first mission.

### **From here, you're on your own...**

From this point, you'll embark on a crazy adventure. You'll explore several environments in the movie and numerous new environments. You're in for a memorable experience; one that will be even more enjoyable if you play cooperatively with a friend.

We hope you enjoy ***Over the Hedge*** if you have any questions whatsoever, please don't hesitate to contact us.