

Mouse and Rat Prevention Checklist



Act before the signs (runways, burrows, droppings, urine, odor, gnawing marks, rub marks, tracks, sounds, etc) of mouse and rat infestations are present.

Remove Rodent Entryways

- Block all holes and cracks about 1/4-inch or larger in foundation and around the structure. Fill holes with materials that rats and mice can not gnaw through (i.e., concrete mortar, galvanized sheet metal, and heavy-gauge hardware cloth). Don't use chewable materials, like plastic, rubber, vinyl or wood.
- Seal holes around utility wires, pipes and conduit . Use hardware cloth to screen vents and floor drains.
- Repair broken windows, doors, screens and make sure they close tightly.
- Replace worn weather-stripping and install door sweeps.

Remove Rodent Runways and Shelter

- Stack firewood 18 inches off the ground and away from all buildings.
- Remove or cut down tall grass and weeds.
- Remove blackberries and other brush from the area near your home's foundation.
- Trim ground level branches off shrubs.
- Maintain at least a 2-3 foot wide gravel border of rocks free of all vegetation and mulches.
- Avoid plants that climb building walls such as vines, which provide shelter and runways for mice and rats.
- Keep bird feeders away from the house and sweep up seeds on the ground frequently.
- Use trash cans with tight lids.
- Clean up fallen fruits, seed pods, and nuts from trees.
- Clean up dog droppings.

Eliminate Rodent Food And Water Sources

- Use garbage cans with tight lids or take trash out daily.
- Keep dumpsters outside the building at least 75 feet away from outside doors, windows or other entrances.
- Place dumpsters on hard, cleanable surfaces such as concrete. Small dumpsters could be on wheels keeping them up off the ground.
- Remove candy, snacks and other food materials stored in desk drawers or lockers.
- Immediately pick up spilled food products, debris or any edible substances.
- Keep grains, cookies, sugar, pet food etc. in closed metal or glass containers. Mice can chew through plastic bags, cardboard and burlap.
- Feed pets at specific times and then remove food bowls.
- Store lawn and garden seed, birdseed and organic fertilizers (such as bone meal) in rodent proof containers.
- Don't leave food or dirty dishes out overnight.
- Keep counters, stove top, oven, broiler, under fridge and the kitchen floor clean.
- Do not compost any animal products (fish, meat, chicken, cheese, butter).
- Fix leaky pipes and moisture problems.
- Always keep your kitchen sink rinsed clean. Use a microbial product that eats away grease, food debris and other wastes (i.e., InVade Bio Drain Gel, Biozyme).
- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets. Let it cool, place it into a plastic trash bag, then dispose it in the trash.
- Keep your toilet lid down when not in use.