

Rodent Prevention

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Rats and mice carry many diseases that can spread directly or indirectly to people, making them a public health threat pest. They also carry fleas, ticks, and parasites, which can affect pets and humans.

SIGNS OF RODENTS

Kitchens and garages are the two areas of a home most likely to have rodent activity. These are the most common signs of mice and rats:

- Rodent droppings under the sink, in drawers or cabinets, or around food packages (usually $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch long with pointed ends)
- Gnaw marks and damaged packages
- Nesting materials (insulation, cotton, paper, clothing or foliage debris)
- Greasy rub marks on walls along their paths of travel
- Small holes in walls that serve as entry points (mice can squeeze into openings the size of a dime and rats can get through gaps the size of a quarter)
- Stale, musty odors from dead rodents
- Actual rodents themselves



HOW TO PREVENT RODENTS

Over-the-counter mouse poison, mouse traps, and other home remedies are not very effective and can often cause more harm to your health. Successful rat and mice pest control measures are usually multifaceted efforts. Eliminating food and water sources are key to preventing your property from attracting rodents. Rats will eat just about anything, including pet waste. Your diligence in prevention will help avoid an infestation.

Here are some tips on how to prevent rodents:

- Look for gaps and holes in and around your home the size of a quarter or even as small as a dime
- Seal up any gaps and holes you find to prevent rodents from getting in using materials they can't chew through
- Make sure food and garbage inside your home are sealed up tight, including bird seed, grass seed, pet food and pantry items
- Keep outdoor areas clean and food sources away from the home and garage
- Place garbage bags inside regularly cleaned garbage cans with tight-fitting closed lids and no holes
- Keep bushes, trees, plants, and ground covers trimmed back from the ground and the house, garage, and any other structures



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