

Rats & Mice on Your Property

A Guide for Property Owners

2019



If you find rodents on/in your property consult with a professional pest control company that is well trained in managing rodents about treatment



Interesting Points:

- Rats typically live outside while mice typically live inside of structures(homes)
- Mice are more curious than fearful, rats are more fearful than curious. Mice are more likely to explore an environment than rats.
- Mice have poor eyesight
- Rodents can not chew through metal or metal items (i.e. 1/4 inch wire mesh, steel wool)
- Rodents travel along the perimeters of walls, fence lines etc.
- Remove food, water, shelter and ways to get around on your property — Don't make your garbage their food

Cleaning up after Rodents:

- ⇒ Always wear gloves & wash your hands after
- ⇒ Use WET methods of cleaning (dry methods will stir up dust that you don't want to breathe in!)
- ⇒ Use a disinfectant or a mixture of bleach & water. Spray product on dead rodents, nests or droppings BEFORE picking them up
- ⇒ MOP floors, wet-clean countertops with disinfectant/bleach, steam clean affected upholstered furniture & carpets
- ⇒ Dispose of items in a bag and into a covered trash can.
- ⇒ For more info visit: www.cdc.gov/rodents/cleaning/index.html

Rats

Evidence that Rats are on your property/yard:

- ⇒ Nests or Burrows—commonly found under bushes, plants, and in dirt. Are 1-4 inches wide with smooth edges
- ⇒ Moist, dark (and larger in size) droppings
- ⇒ Holes & Gnaw Marks on Wood, Plastic Bags & Garbage Cans
- ⇒ Worn Down Runway Paths along walls & grass—Rats run along the same path many times

Sources of Food Include:

- ⇒ Bird Feeders, Bird Seed, Grass Seed
- ⇒ Domestic Pet(s) Food & Water Bowls
- ⇒ Domestic Pet (s) Feces
- ⇒ Uncovered Garbage & Recyclable Bins
- ⇒ Ponding of water on yards
- ⇒ BBQ Grills, Compost pile



Mice

Evidence that Mice are inside your home:

- ⇒ Nests made from fine, shredded paper or other material resembling a woven ball ~4-6 inches wide
- ⇒ Smaller droppings
- ⇒ Gnaw marks



Controlling Rats:

- ⇒ **Get Rid of Clutter!** Clutter gives rats places to hide, nest & reproduce!
- ⇒ Clear out your yard & keep it free of weeds & trash



- ⇒ Store items away from walls & off the ground (i.e. firewood piles)
- ⇒ **Control Weeds, Shrubs & Bushes!**
- ⇒ Keep tall grass, bushes & shrubs trimmed and away from building foundations
- ⇒ Avoid dense planting
- ⇒ Store food in tightly sealed containers—hard plastic & metal containers are ideal

How to Keep them Out:

- ⇒ Seal all holes and cracks in foundations, walls, floors, underneath doors, and around windows. **Rats can fit through openings as small as a half inch!**
- ⇒ For *small* cracks, gaps & holes use: caulk mixed with steel wool, roofing cement, metal door sweeps, metal flashing, & metal screens
- ⇒ For *larger* areas use: heavy gauge sheet metal, wire mesh sealed with ready-mix cement
- ⇒ Seal pipes leading into buildings with escutcheon plates—check pipes for leaks.
- ⇒ Close burrows with soil or with metal or use cement filler for burrows in cement.



Prevention & Control:

- ⇒ **Mice can fit through openings as small as a quarter inch!**
- ⇒ Seal all gaps & cracks through out your home using similar methods as above in areas like: Windows, Garage(s), Garage Doors, Foundation, Chimney, Exterior doors, Attic, Basement, Water Pipes, Vents