

# Prevent Rodent Infestation

The best way to prevent rodent infestation is to remove food, water, and shelter.



## Seal UP!

## Trap UP!

## Clean UP!

### Seal Up!

Seal up holes inside and outside to prevent entry by rodents.

Mice can squeeze through a hole the size of a nickel, and rats can squeeze through a hole the size of a half dollar.

Look for gaps or holes inside and outside your home.

- Inside, under, and behind kitchen cabinets, refrigerators and stoves.
- Inside closets.
- Around the fireplace.
- Around doors.
- Around the pipes under sinks, washing machines, hot water heaters and furnaces.
- Around floor vents and dryer vents.
- Inside the attic, basement or crawl space.
- In the basement and laundry room floor drains.
- Between the floor and wall juncture.
- In the roof among the rafters, gables, and eaves.
- Around windows and doors.
- Attic vents and crawl space vents.
- Around holes for electrical, plumbing, cable, and gas lines.

**Fill holes:** Fill small holes with steel wool. Caulk around the steel wool to keep it in place. Use lath screen or lath metal, cement, hardware cloth, or metal sheeting to fix large holes. These materials can be found at your local hardware store. Fix gaps in trailer skirting. Use flashing around the base of the house. If you do not seal entry holes in your home, rodents will

continue to get inside. Outbuildings and garages should also be sealed to prevent the entrance of rodents.

### Trap Up!

Trap rodents around the home to reduce the rodent population.

Choose an appropriate snap trap. Traps for mice are different from those for rats. Carefully read the instructions before setting the trap.

In attics, basements, crawlspaces and other areas without regular human traffic, set traps where there is evidence of frequent rodent activity. Some rodents, particularly rats, are very cautious and several days may pass before they approach the traps. Other rodents, such as house mice are less cautious and may be trapped more quickly. Do not use glue traps or live traps. These can scare mice and cause them to urinate. Their urine may contain germs and increase your risk of exposure to disease. Place traps in outbuildings and areas that might serve as rodent shelters. If you trap inside your home, but do not seal up rodent entry holes, new rodents will enter the dwelling.



### Clean Up!

Prevent contact with rodents by cleaning up. Take precautions before and while cleaning rodent-infested areas.

- Keep food in thick plastic or metal containers with tight lids.
- Clean up spilled food and wash dishes and cooking utensils after use.
- Keep cooking areas and grills clean.
- Put pet food and animal feed away after use. Don't leave bowls out overnight.
- Keep bird feeders away from the house and use squirrel guard.
- Use a thick plastic or metal garbage can with a tight lid.
- Keep compost bins far away from the house (100 feet or more is best).
- Keep woodpiles far from the house.
- Get rid of old trucks, cars, and tires.
- Dispose of trash and garbage on a frequent, regular basis. Eliminate clutter.



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