

Rodent Prevention

Prevention is key in controlling mouse and rat issues. There are steps that residents can take to manage rodent activity outside and inside the home.

OUTSIDE THE HOME

Maintenance will fill in or cover up any gaps, cracks or holes around your home that are ¼ inch or larger. Mice can squeeze through holes as small as dime and rats as small as a quarter. This includes gaps in worn thresholds under doors, cracks in foundation, gaps around pipes and wires going into walls and soffits, and gaps under and in siding or stucco. These can be plugged up with copper wool mixed with caulking or expanding foam, or covered up with wire mesh.

1. Do not leave ground level doors open without the benefit of a screen. Members may purchase their own screens.
2. Properly maintain landscaping. Trim any overgrown shrubbery until ground is visible, cut grass and weeds short, prune back branches that hang over roofs and awnings.
3. Keep your yard or patio clutter free. Remove any debris, piles of rocks, old equipment, unused items and leaf litter.
4. Keep any debris and items away from building walls and elevated at least 12 inches.
5. Pick fruits and vegetables when they are ripe. Clean up fruits that have fallen onto the ground.
6. Keep composters at a distance from the home. Use a layer of heavy metal mesh between the soil and bottom of the composter to prevent chewing.
7. Do not place bird feeders in your yard or on your patio. Scattered seeds attract rodents and are a competitive food source to bait used in rodent bait stations.
8. Do not leave pet food outside as this attracts rodents. Clean pet bowls at night.
9. Do not leave garbage, especially food scraps outside doors and on patios.
10. Do not leave containers with water or containers potentially collecting rain water outside. Fix leaky hoses and taps.
11. Make sure you close common garbage containers after disposing of your garbage, particularly organics, to prevent attracting pests to garbage areas. Pick up any dropped items right away.

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INSIDE THE HOME

1. Maintenance will plug up gaps around water pipes under sinks and by heater with copper wool and caulking or expanding foam. Cover up bigger opening in walls, floors or ceilings with wire mesh, flashing etc.
2. Keep your home clutter free. In case of a rodent problem, it is harder to manage the infestation when there are plenty of hiding areas and potential food sources.
3. Keep your home clean. Clean the floor under the stove, fridge and dishwasher, as well as other hard to reach spots, regularly. Vacuum under sofa cushions. Keep counter tops free from foods and leftovers. Don't keep food in bedrooms or living room where rodents could have easy access to it.
4. Store food in chew-proof and tightly closed containers, made of metal, glass or sturdy plastic that protects the food from mice, but also from stored products pests.
5. Avoid storing food in lower cabinets if there are holes and gaps at the back or at the bottom of the door. Please note that there is almost always a structural gap in corner cabinets with a folding door.
6. If you store plant seed in bulbs in your unit, make sure they are kept in a sturdy container with a lid.
7. Do not leave pet food and water on the floor overnight.
8. Keep organic garbage in a sturdy, closed containers and empty it regularly.