



How to inspect for rodents on your property

Address:

Date:

Question	Yes	No	Correction-If "Yes"
Building			
1. Does my home (or other structure) have gaps or holes bigger than ¼ inch:			
a. In the foundation?			Seal with "qwik seal" or other good sealing material.
b. In vents?			Secure vents with mesh screen less than ¼ inch opening
c. At door thresholds?			Replace door sweep
d. At conduits (plumbing, electrical, air)?			Seal around openings with "qwik seal" or other good sealing material
e. At wall junctures?			Seal less than ¼ inch with silicone. Seal greater than ¼ inch with "qwik seal"
2. Are there signs of rodents within the structure:			
a. Gnawing on food packaging, linens, furnishings, paper goods?			Find entrance to home and seal. Discard the gnawed items.
b. Droppings and urine stains?			Find holes closest to path of travel. You will see a pattern of where they defecate.
If yes: are they fresh or dry? (Hint: use the tip of a Q-tip to press the dropping. If it "squishes" down, it is fresh)			If fresh, it may be a new infestation. If dry, it is old. Clean up using attached guidelines for both.
Circle one: Fresh Dry			
c. Dead rodents or nests? (Nests are generally made of anything the rodent can shred and make comfortable)			Clean up using attached guidelines for both.
<p>If there is evidence of a current infestation (fresh droppings, live rodents, current gnawing), precautions must be taken during elimination of the infestation (trapping and baiting-see <i>Rodent Control Measures</i>). Trapping and baiting are not necessary if the infestation is old. ALWAYS use the clean-up guideline precautions whether or not the infestation is current or old! (see <i>Safety Precautions and Clean-Up Guidelines</i>)</p>			

Question	Yes	No	Correction-If "Yes"
Grounds (Outside)			
3. Are there piles of trash or debris present on the property?			Remove debris or trash.
4. Are there wood piles?			Regularly inspect the wood pile for evidence of rodents.
5. Is there a shed or outbuilding that is infrequently used?			Regularly air out the building and check for new rodent activity.
6. Is pet food left outside?			Do not leave pet food outside. It will attract pests like birds and rodents.
7. Is there any fallen fruit that is left on the ground?			Clean up and discard fallen, inedible fruit as soon as possible in a closed waste can.
8. Is there lush vegetation in the yard?			Maintain all plants in a trimmed manner. Regularly inspect low-to-the-ground plantings for rodent activity and bait and trap as needed.
9. Are there soft furniture items left outside?			Remove soft upholstered items. Rodents will use these for nests.
10. Are trash cans kept outside?			Inspect bottoms of cans for gnawing, empty regularly, and maintain a good, sealing lid.

General Preventive Measures:

1. Maintain your property in a sanitary manner, so as to reduce the potential for rodents on the grounds.
2. Rodent-proof all structures using durable materials such as ¼ inch mesh, metal hardware, cloth or sheet metal. Eliminate all gaps greater than ¼ inch.
3. Reduce available food, water, and harborage that can be used by rodents.
4. Do not leave pet food out at night.
5. Remove fallen fruit promptly.
6. Thin vegetation.
7. Remove cast-off items or elevate 18 inches above the ground to reduce harborage.
8. Routinely inspect the property for evidence of rodents.

Rodent Control Measures:

If an active infestation does exist, take prompt and effective measures to eliminate the rodents. Since infestations can vary as to the species of rodent involved; the type, location, and condition of the structure; and other important factors, each situation may call for a different method of control. However, the following are some important points to consider when getting rid of a rodent infestation:

Indoor: In most cases, snap traps are preferable inside a structure. Glue boards can also be used, but snap traps are more humane. If poison bait is used, the rodent may crawl off and die in an area where you cannot reach it, and eventually it will smell very bad and may attract other pests like flies.

Outdoor: Properly applied approved baits can be effective in some situations, but adjacent structures should be properly rodentproofed before baiting. In a rural setting, the use of baits can unintentionally kill untargeted species, such as birds or pets, and animals that might eat the dead rodents, like birds of prey or pets. Again, traps are preferable. A non-toxic bait can be made for the traps. Peanut butter combined with oatmeal and rolled into balls, when placed on or in a trap, is very effective at attracting rodents.

For both indoor and outdoor rodent control, ALWAYS keep all traps and baits out of the reach of children and pets to prevent accidental poisoning, injury, or illness!

References:

Information taken from "Environmental Health Online, Health Advisory, Rodent-Borne Diseases: Risk Reduction Recommendations, Los Angeles County-Department of Health Services, Vector Management Program.

Websites:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hanta/hps/graphics/prevcard/prevcardside1.gif>

Contact Clark County Health District, Animal Disease Program at 383-1251 for more information. We are online at <http://www.cchd.org>.

Safety Precautions and Clean-Up Guidelines

The following guidelines should always be used when controlling rodents and when cleaning up rodent-infested areas:

- ❖ Avoid contact with live rodents.
- ❖ Always wear rubber, latex, vinyl, or nitrile gloves.
- ❖ Avoid disturbing contaminated material so as to prevent creating aerosols. **NEVER** use a vacuum or broom on dry areas-this only causes the urine, feces, and saliva to become airborne!
- ❖ A simple dust mask may provide some protection against dust and other particles, but should not be relied upon to protect against airborne pathogens. Special respirators can provide effective protection when equipped with appropriate filters and when properly fit-tested to the specific user. This is not generally necessary for home clean up.
- ❖ Open doors and windows, if possible, to unoccupied structures and allow them to air out prior to entering and cleaning.
- ❖ Disinfect trapped rodents and contaminated materials and surfaces by thoroughly wetting them down with a household or general-purpose disinfectant such as bleach. To make the proper concentration of bleach solution, combine 1 ½ cups of bleach with one gallon of water. Other disinfectants such as quaternary ammonium compounds (409, Lysol) may also be used on items that will be ruined by bleach. **Thorough wetting of all materials is the key!** Once wet, leave the items to soak for a few minutes.
- ❖ Remove the disinfected materials with a paper towel or cloth dampened with the disinfectant and dispose of in a plastic trash bag and seal.
- ❖ Place the disinfected materials (rodents, nests, towels) in a **second** plastic bag and secure. Dispose of this with other household wastes in a garbage can with a tight-fitting lid.
- ❖ Lastly, disinfect and rinse gloves prior to removing them, and then wash your hands with soap and water.
- ❖ **If there is a severe infestation, it may be desirable to hire professional pest control to handle the problem.**

The Prevention of Hantavirus Disease

Air out closed buildings 1 hour. Disinfect places rodents have been, then clean up.



Repair screens and holes or cracks in walls.



Wear rubber gloves. Trap and disinfect rodents.



Disinfect and clean up rodent nests and droppings.

Put materials in 2 trash bags; throw away, burn or bury.



Formula for Disinfectant

Solution:

1 and 1/2 cups of chlorine bleach to every gallon of water. Or use household spray disinfectant.

For more information, call your state health department. Or call CDC toll-free at 1-877-232-3322.



Roof Rat (*Rattus rattus*) Roof rats are slender animals. The tail is longer than the head and body combined. The top and bottom of the tail are the same color; color ranges from black to dark gray. The nose or muzzle is pointed, the eyes are large and the big ears cover the eyes if bent forward. They are excellent climbers.



Norway Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) Similar to the roof rat but larger and chunkier. The tail is shorter than length of head and body. On average, total body length is 444 millimeters; tail, 205 millimeters; hind foot, 46 millimeters; weight, 400 to 500 grams.

Both rat species are extremely intelligent and adaptable!



Deer Mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*)

About six inches long to the tip of its tail. It is yellowish brown to grayish white on top, has a white belly and feet, large ears, and a furry tail that is white on the underside. **They are very cute mice! They also transmit hantavirus!**

House Mouse (*Mus musculus* or *Mus domesticus*)

House mice are similar in size to deer mice but they are a solid grayish-brown color above and below. Their tail is also scaly like a Norway rat and not covered with fur like the deer mouse.

