

## RODENT FACTS

Being familiar with rodent behaviors will help determine the best suited prevention program.

### Mice

- Cautious and most active at night
- Sporadic eaters, nibbling here and there throughout the day
- Can jump from a height of 12 feet without injury
- Can jump straight up at least 12 inches
- Can walk wire and other thin objects without falling
- Can enter an opening the size of a dime

### Rats

- Very cautious and nocturnal
- Opportunistic feeders - eat what's available usually in one sitting
- Can gnaw through wood, plaster, plastic, lead pipe, aluminum, cinder block, porous concrete, adobe brick, metal conduit, soft rubber, cardboard, paper, and cloth
- Can enter an opening the size of a quarter
- Can fall 50 feet without serious injury



## CONTROLLING RATS AND MICE

Rats and mice pose a major health threat by spreading potentially deadly diseases to our children, adults, and animals. In our homes, farms, and businesses, rats and mice find the food, water, and shelter they need to thrive. Any rodent problem, however small, can become a major health and safety threat, if left untreated.

Rodent control is more than putting out bait or traps, and by following the four basic steps, greater success will be achieved at keeping homes and businesses free of rats and mice:

## STEP 1

### INSPECT FOR RODENTS

#### Rodent Sounds

Gnawing, scratching, squeaks, particularly at night

#### Gnaw Marks

Holes in bags or boxes of food, piles of sawdust, shredded paper

#### Burrows

Holes in earth banks, along walls or building foundations, under rubbish, by bird feeders, by dog houses, in wood piles

#### Droppings

Small, round feces: 1/2 inch for mice, 3/4 inch to 1 inch for rats

#### Tracks

Usually observed by pest control professionals



## STEP 2

### KEEP THE PREMISES CLEAN

#### Control Measures

- Store pet food in sealed containers
- Regularly clean up spilled bird seed from bird feeders
- Keep garbage, litter, and debris in sealed containers. Pick up food scraps.
- Keep water sources to a minimum (e.g. bird baths, fountains, drain spouts, ponds)
- Clear outside debris/clutter and trim vegetation that could provide protective cover (e.g. brush piles, overgrown shrubs, wood piles, discarded equipment)
- Consider trimming vines from buildings and fences
- Remove food from areas that have signs of rodents
- Wipe up spilled food and store loose food in sealed containers in cupboards
- Clean food particles from under the stove and refrigerator

#### Clean Up Droppings

Rodent droppings can carry the Hantavirus. It is transmitted when dried droppings particles are inhaled. Although the disease is rare, it is fatal. Use precautions when cleaning:

- Use rubber gloves
- Mist area with disinfectant cleaner prior to contact
- Use paper towels to wipe up droppings or urine
- Dispose of towels in a sealed plastic bag
- Dampen any nesting materials or dead rodents with disinfectant and dispose in the same manner

## STEP 3

### PREVENT RODENT ENTRY

The most effective form of rodent management is fixing a structure so that there are no easy paths for rats to enter from the outside.

#### Build Rodents Out

- Repair torn screens, fix or replace broken or missing windows, fix non-functioning doors
- Plug up holes, cracks and gaps in walls with coarse steel wool, galvanized sheet metal, or heavy-gauge hardware cloth
- Weather-strip doors leading from the garage into the house
- Seal openings around pipes, drain spouts, and vents
- Fill interior and exterior holes
- Cover floor drains with mesh

#### Monitor the Outdoors

- Keep grass mowed to about 2 1/2 inches and prune shrubs - rodents avoid open areas
- Remove woodpiles and building materials - rodents hide or nest in these



## BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

You can help prevent rodent problems in your neighborhood by maintaining your property in a manner that is unattractive to mice and rats. Rodents do not stay long in places where there is no food, water, or shelter.

## STEP 4

### SELECT AND PLACE CONTROL PRODUCTS

#### Baiting

- Place bait close together where there is rodent activity: every 8 to 12 feet for mice, 10 to 30 feet for rats
- Maintain supply of bait for 10 to 15 days
- Keep bait stored separately from other products with odors that would affect bait acceptance
- Store bait away from children and pets



#### Glue Boards and Glue Traps

- Non-poisonous product
- Only use indoors



#### Mechanical Traps

- Both indoors and outdoors

#### Tamper-Resistant Bait Stations

- Keeps bait away from children and animals
- Remove unused bait when baiting is no longer necessary



## RODENT PEST MANAGEMENT CONTROLLING RATS AND MICE



Prepared by:  
City of Green Bay  
Department of Community and  
Economic Development  
100 N Jefferson Street, Room 608  
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301  
920.448.3306