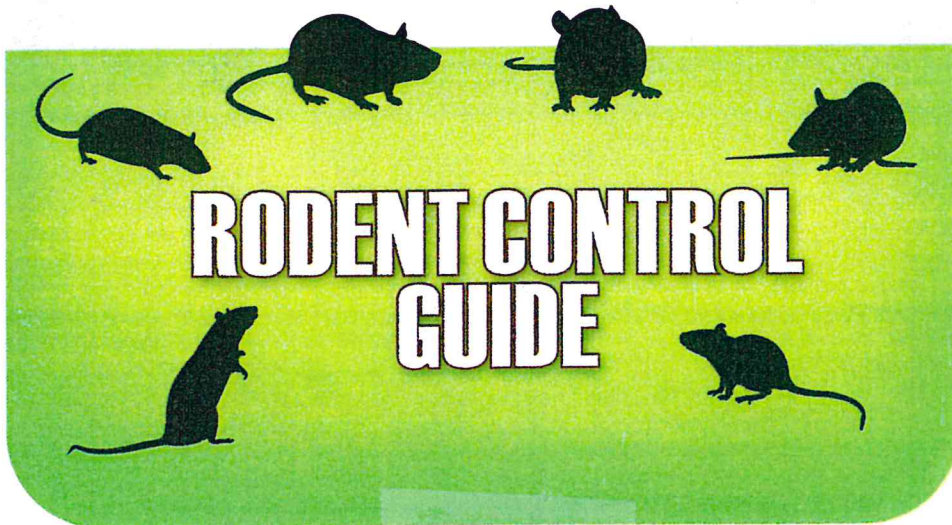


Saint Louis
COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH
**VECTOR-BORNE
DISEASE CONTROL**



Questions?

Rodents, like people, need a place to live and food to eat. If you eliminate their shelter and sustenance, populations can be controlled. Rodents LOVE to chew and can cause extensive property damage to electrical, structural, and building systems. But, just as important... rodents can SPREAD DISEASE. Infestations left unnoticed are more expensive and dangerous to remediate than those uncovered quickly!

For additional information, or to request an inspection for rodent activity, please contact:

Vector-Borne Disease Control Program
10521 Baur Boulevard
Olivette, MO 63132
(314) 615-0680
TTY (314) 615-8428
Rodent.DPH@stlouisco.com

Saint Louis
COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH
**VECTOR-BORNE
DISEASE CONTROL**
RelayMO 711
or
800-735-2966

NOTE: Saint Louis County Vector-Borne Disease Control can only treat on public property or easements and pick up dead rodents on public property or easements. They cannot issue poison to the public nor pick up dead rodents on personal property. We will, however, provide technical assistance to St. Louis County residents in preventing and eliminating rodent infestations on their property. Some municipalities have their own rodent abatement services; contact your city hall to see what further services they may provide. You can also look in the Yellow Pages under "Pest Control" for companies that will treat rodent infestations. Make sure any professional service you use is licensed, bonded, and has certified service people.

Why Control Rodents?

RODENTS AREN'T JUST A NUISANCE

Rodents are notorious for causing damage to a home, but did you know that they also carry diseases? They can contaminate food and surfaces by leaving fur, urine, and feces wherever they go! These diseases can be transmitted from rodents, directly, or through vectors, indirectly.

DIRECT TRANSMISSION



INHALATION

Breathing in air or dust contaminated with rodent feces or urine.

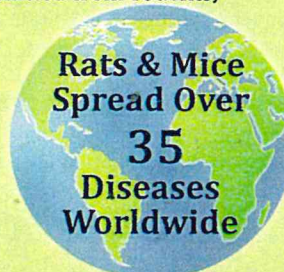


CONTACT

Improper handling of a dead rodent or bites or scratches from living rodents.

INGESTION

Eating food or drinking beverages contaminated with rodent feces or urine.



Directly Transmitted Diseases:

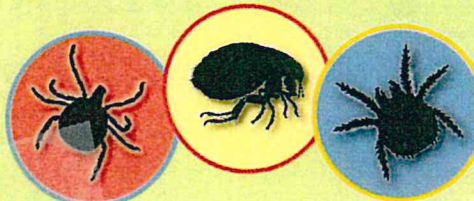
- # Leptospirosis
- # Salmonellosis
- # Tularemia

INDIRECT TRANSMISSION

Being bitten by a tick, flea, or mite that has fed on an infected rodent.

Indirectly Transmitted Diseases:

- # Anaplasmosis
- # Ehrlichiosis
- # Rocky Mountain spotted fever



Telltale Signs of Rodent Activity

RODENTS ARE MOST ACTIVE AT NIGHT

If these look familiar, you may have a problem that needs to be addressed – the sooner the better!



DROPPINGS

Check kitchen cabinets and pantry, under sinks, along baseboards, and on top of walls and beams.



GNAW MARKS

Check walls and ceilings as rodents can chew through almost any type of material, including plastic and lead.

NESTS
Check secluded, dark areas for nests (i.e., shredded paper products, wall insulation and fabrics).



STRANGE NOISES

Strange noises in the walls (especially at night) may be rodents scurrying about.



BURROW(S)

Check along foundation walls, concrete slabs, and fences, and under low vegetation, as well as, woodpiles.



RUB MARKS/ TRACKS

Check walls and floorboards for greasy or dirty smears caused by their oily fur.

Suspect Rodent Activity in Your Home?

You are NOT alone!



1 IN 6 HOMES ARE INVADED BY RODENTS EACH WINTER!

Rodent control in and around the home is effective in preventing human exposure to rodent-borne diseases.

Denying rodents access to their three basic needs (food, shelter, and water) will greatly reduce rodent activity within the home.

For control measures to be successful:

- SEAL EVEN THE SMALLEST OF ENTRIES;
- ELIMINATE FOOD SOURCES AROUND THE HOME; and
- ERADICATE ALL RODENTS AROUND THE HOME.



KEEP IN MIND...

A mouse can enter a crack or gap the width of a pencil (roughly 1/4 inch) and a hole the size of a nickel (less than 3/4 inch). A rat can squeeze through a hole the size of a half dollar (a little more than an inch)!

Seal Points of Entry

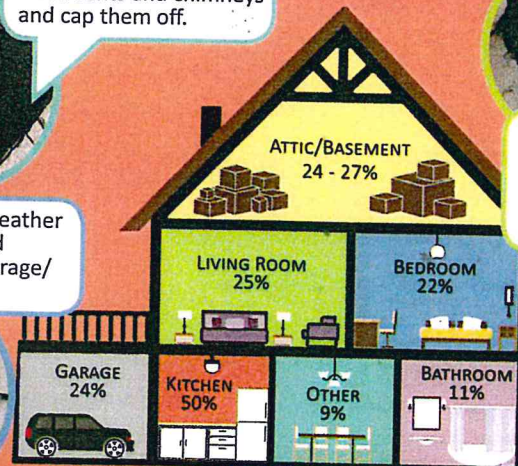
HOW DO RODENTS GET IN?

Replace or seal damaged shingles. Fix gaps around stack vents and chimneys and cap them off.



Fill and seal gaps and holes around electrical, plumbing, cable, and gas lines.

Replace worn weather stripping around windows and garage/entry doors.



Cover holes in the foundation and attic vents!

WHERE IN THE HOME IS ACTIVITY MOST LIKELY TO OCCUR?

TIPS

You can find the following materials at your local hardware store:

- Fill small holes with steel wool and caulk around the steel wool to keep it in place.
- Lath screen, cement, hardware cloth, or metal sheeting can be used to fix large holes.

Outbuildings and garages should also be sealed!

Eliminate Food Sources Inside

MAINTAINED PROPERTIES ARE NOT ATTRACTIVE



STORE

Store dry foods (i.e., cereal, rice, pet food) in tight-sealing glass or metal containers.



PICK UP

Return any uneaten pet food to the container and pick up pet food spilled on the floor.



CLEAN UP

Keep kitchens clean, sweep up crumbs and wash dishes after meals.



EMPTY

Empty kitchen garbage cans and recycling bins frequently.



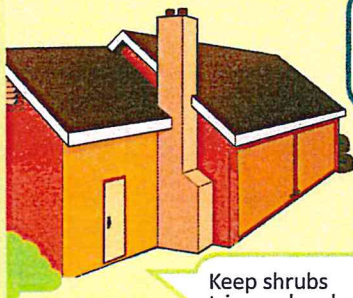
TIPS

Even a well-maintained home may have rodents if there is shelter and food available!

- Identify and eliminate possible outdoor nesting sites while reducing food sources.
- Elevate hay, wood, and garbage cans off the ground.
- Keep yard mowed and get rid of old trucks, cars, and tires.

...and Outside the Home

... TO RODENTS THAT IS



Put leftover pet food away and do not leave food or water bowls out overnight.



Use rust-resistant or heavy duty plastic garbage cans with tight-fitting lids. Store away from home and covered.



Keep shrubs trimmed and away from the home.



Harvest or remove fruit or nuts that may have fallen on your property.



Clean up animal waste frequently.

Place bird feeders away from the home and clean up fallen seeds and hulls.



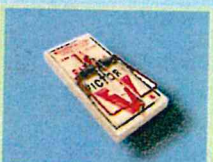
Eradicate Existing Rodents

CHOOSING AN APPROPRIATE TRAP

Traps for catching mice are different from those used to catch rats. Carefully read the instructions before setting any traps! **Remember: if you trap but do not SEAL EVEN THE SMALLEST OF ENTRIES** new rodents will enter the home!

INSIDE THE HOME

Spring-loaded traps and glue boards are effective indoors where poisons may hurt people or pets, where poisons would be too close to food, or where retrieving poisoned rodents would be difficult. Most stores will carry these items and they can be baited with peanut butter or partially cooked bacon.



OUTSIDE THE HOME

Use any properly labeled and EPA-approved poison rodent bait and bait station(s). For maximum effectiveness, **ELIMINATE FOOD SOURCES AROUND THE HOME**, forcing rodents to eat the bait as their only food. Be mindful and place bait out of the reach of children and pets. Follow all label directions closely and don't forget to wear gloves!

TIPS When using poisons, "Bait shyness" may develop after several rats have died, so it may be necessary to switch to another poison.

Control Rodents Safely

WHEN HANDLING RODENTS, USE CAUTION!

Dead or alive, rodents can spread disease; therefore it is important to handle them with caution!



Always wear disposable gloves when handling rodents, rodent bait, or when cleaning rodent-soiled areas.



Avoid stirring up and breathing dust in these areas. Wear a face mask to avoid breathing dust particles contaminated by rodents.



To eliminate dust and inhalation of rodent feces or urine particles, use a disinfectant to dampen soiled nesting material and droppings before cleaning.



Throw away disposable gloves and thoroughly wash hands with soap and warm water after handling dead rodents or materials soiled by rodents.

TIPS

- Disinfect all contaminated areas with a 10% bleach solution (let it sit for 10 minutes minimum).
- Dispose of rodents, rodent nesting materials, and rodent droppings by burial, incineration, or by double wrapping them in plastic bags and throwing them into a garbage can with a tightly fitting lid.

Self-Inspection Check List

EXTERIOR OF HOME

- Walls, roof, and foundation are free of cracks/holes
- Window screens and trim are free of damage
- Vents and large openings are screened or sealed
- Doors have sweeps and/or weather stripping
- Tree and shrub branches are away from the home
- Home is free of ivy and/or vines
- Garbage cans are metal or heavy duty plastic
- ...located on hard surfaces away from the home
- ...and properly sealed with tight fitting lids
- Area around garbage cans is free of trash
- Yard is free of fallen fruit or nuts
- Woodpiles elevated and stored away from home
- Bait stations are out of reach of children and pets
- Animal waste is disposed of frequently

INTERIOR OF HOME

- Gaps around pipes, vents, and walls are screened
- Crevices around cabinets and moldings are sealed
- Walls and baseboards are free of holes/gaps
- Storage areas are clean and organized
- Common areas are clutter-free
- Appliances are free of grease and sugary substances
- Stoves, counters, and tables are free of food scraps
- Floors/moldings are free of food scraps and grease
- Food is stored in tight-sealing containers
- Pet food and bulk food is stored in sealed containers
- Leftover pet food is removed at night
- Cardboard boxes are broken down
- Garbage cans have lids and are emptied regularly
- Animal waste is disposed of frequently

Notes/
Things to Do