



PREVENTING RATS AND MICE FROM ENTERING YOUR HOUSE

Mice and rats are looking for food and shelter all year round. If you cut off access to those two things, it will help solve your rodent problem.

1. Clean areas under stoves, refrigerators and dishwashers.
2. Store dry food (rice, pasta and grains), dry pet food and birdseed in metal, glass or plastic containers with a lid.
3. Empty pet food dishes after feeding and wash every night. Place bird feeders with seed away from the house.
4. Store lumber, firewood and compost away from the house. Elevate lumber and firewood on pallets. Use thick plastic or metal trash cans with tightly fitting lids.
5. Rake, collect and remove fruit, nuts and other foods that have fallen out of plants or trees.
6. Repair all small holes in foundation, walls, basements, etc. Use caulking, a concrete patch, coarse steel wool or copper mesh. You can also fasten a sheet metal plate or cement over masonry.
7. Properly dispose of garbage.

RESTRICTING ACCESS

- To prevent mice and rats from coming indoors, make sure doors and windows have fine-mesh, well-maintained screens.
- Cover vents, ducts, holes around electrical conduits, floor drains and other openings with copper or aluminum screens, or with metal coverings. Inspect your foundation, walls, and basement for any rodent holes or cracks.
- Plug these holes with concrete, caulking, copper or aluminum mesh or steel wool.

SANITATION

- Put food away each day, and do not leave glasses of water out overnight.
- Keep food preparation and serving surfaces clean, and clean behind refrigerators and stoves.
- Dispose of garbage regularly and use tight fitting lids on garbage receptacles. Don't leave food overnight in pet food bowls.

YARD MANAGEMENT

- Clip grass and weeds short, and thin shrubbery until the ground underneath is visible.
- Trim shrubs away from walls.



- Avoid over-irrigation of lawn and garden and ensure proper soil drainage.
- Move lumber piles, firewood, compost and other potential rodent habitats away from the walls of your home.

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