



Keeping Rats & Mice out of Your Home

Rats and mice in your home and garden can carry disease or damage your property. You can't stop pests from coming into your yard, but you can make it less attractive for them to stay. Indoors, they prefer roofs, basements, cupboards and walls. Here is some general information that may help. **The best way to get rodents out of your home is not to let them get in there in the first place.**

DOs

- Do an inspection of the outside of your house, including the roof, under the porch, and near windows. Seal any holes or gaps larger than a dime or 1/4". They can squeeze into amazingly tiny gaps.
- Clean your home regularly, and put away any food waste immediately. Store non-refrigerated food in glass, metal, or rigid plastic containers. Make sure lids are secure and food is covered.
- Keep your waste materials in sealed garbage cans, inside and outside. Snug fitting garbage and green bin lids outside will keep out rodents and other pests. Try to keep outdoor cans away from the house. Remove food waste from your barbecue.
- Trim branches that are touching your house. Keep bird feeders away from the house, add a rodent barrier on feeders, and keep the ground clear of fallen seed.
- If rodents are a problem around your property, change to a sealed compost tumbler. You can also harvest garden produce quickly, and keep wood piles away from the house where they may nest.
- It sounds cliché, but owning a cat may help.
- Call a pest control expert if you think you have an infestation.

DON'Ts

- Don't leave food outside for your pets, or out all day indoors.
- Don't leave potential nesting material – cardboard, fabric - out in the open or piled in attics or basements.
- 'Natural' repellents have little success (moth balls, cotton balls soaked in peppermint oil, ammonia, crushed pepper near openings) and may be hazardous to pets or people. Ultrasonic repellents are reportedly ineffective.
- Avoid poison or glue traps to kill rodents; snap traps are most humane/ safe.



Photo from wildlife-removal.com