

Keeping Your Home Rodent-Free

Rodents are a problem not just because they can destroy personal property and components of a home's structure but also because they can spread serious diseases to humans and their pets. Rodent-borne disease may be spread directly -- by touching rodents or their urine, feces or saliva -- or indirectly -- by coming into contact with fleas or other insects that have fed on an infected rodent host.

Use these simple tips to prevent rodent infestation:

- 1. Keep food in thick plastic or metal containers with tight-fitting lids.**
- 2. Clean up spilled food right away, and wash dishes and cooking utensils soon after use.**
- 3. Keep outside cooking areas and grills clean.**
- 4. Keep compost bins as far away from the house as possible.**
- 5. Set up bird feeders away from the house. Utilize squirrel guards to limit access to the feeder by squirrels and other rodents.**
- 6. Always put pet food away after use and do not leave pets' food bowls out overnight.**
- 7. Use thick plastic or metal garbage cans with tight-fitting lids.**
- 8. Dispose of trash and garbage on a frequent and regular basis, and eliminate clutter in and around the property to discourage nesting.**
- 9. If rodents or their dropping are discovered on surfaces, such as countertops and tables, use the strongest, non-damaging cleaner possible to disinfect the area, such as bleach.**
- 10. Plug up rodent holes with steel wool to prevent them from chewing their way through and back into the living space, but remember that this is only a temporary fix.**



Rodent droppings should be cleaned up while wearing a face mask and gloves because disturbing large quantities of fecal matter can cause its dust to become airborne, which can result in respiratory irritation and even illness. Afterward, sterilize the area thoroughly. If the infestation is severe, contact a professional exterminator because rodents reproduce quickly.



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