

Rodent Control Measures

Provided by **AMERICAN PEST CONTROL, INC.**

How to inspect for rodents on your property

1. Does my home (or other structure) have gaps or holes bigger than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch:
 - a. In the foundation? Seal with “qwik seal” or other good sealing material.
 - b. In vents? Secure vents with mesh screen less than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch opening
 - c. At door thresholds? Replace door sweep
 - d. At conduits (plumbing, electrical, air)? Seal around openings with “qwik seal” or other good sealing material.
 - e. At wall junctures? Seal less than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch with silicone. Seal greater than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch with “qwik seal”

2. Are there signs of rodents within the structure?
 - a. Gnawing on food packaging, linens, furnishings, and paper goods?
Find entrance to home and seal. Discard the gnawed items.
 - b. Droppings and urine stains?
You will see a pattern of where they defecate.
If yes: are they fresh or dry? (Hint: use the tip of a Q-tip to press the dropping.
If it “squishes” down, it is fresh) Find holes closest to path of travel.
If fresh, it may be a new infestation. If dry, it is old.
Clean up using attached guidelines for both.
 - c. Dead rodents or nests? (Nests are generally made of anything the rodent can shred and make comfortable) Clean up using attached guidelines for both.

If there is evidence of a current infestation (fresh droppings, live rodents, current gnawing), precautions must be taken during elimination of the infestation. Trapping and baiting are not necessary if the infestation is old.

Grounds (Outside)

3. Are there piles of trash or debris present on the property? Remove debris or trash.
4. Are there woodpiles? Regularly inspect the woodpile for evidence of rodents.
5. Is there a shed or outbuilding that is infrequently used? Regularly air out the building and check for new rodent activity.
6. **Is pet food left outside? Do not leave pet food outside.** It will attract pests like birds and rodents.
7. Is there any fallen fruit that is left on the ground? Clean up and discard fallen, inedible fruit as soon as possible in a closed waste can.
8. Is there lush vegetation in the yard?
Maintain all plants in a trimmed manner. Regularly inspect low-to-the-ground plantings for rodent activity and bait and trap as needed.
9. Are there soft furniture items left outside? Remove soft upholstered items.
Rodents will use these for nests.
10. Are trashcans kept outside? Inspect bottoms of cans for gnawing, empty regularly, and maintain a good, sealing lid

General Preventive Measures:

1. Maintain your property in a sanitary manner, so as to reduce the potential for rodents on the grounds.
2. Rodent-proof all structures using durable materials such as ¼ inch mesh, metal hardware, cloth or sheet metal. Eliminate all gaps greater than ¼ inch.
3. Reduce available food, water, and harborage that can be used by rodents.
4. Do not leave pet food out at night.
5. Remove fallen fruit promptly.
6. Thin vegetation.
7. Remove cast-off items or elevate 18 inches above the ground to reduce harborage.
8. Routinely inspect the property for evidence of rodents.

Rodent Control Measures:

If an active infestation does exist, take prompt and effective measures to eliminate the rodents. Call **American Pest Control** for immediate service. Since infestations can vary as to the species of rodent involved; the type, location, and condition of the structure; and other important factors, each situation may call for a different method of control. However, the following are some important points to consider when getting rid of a rodent infestation:

Indoor: In most cases, snap traps are preferable inside a structure. Glue boards can also be used, but snap traps are more humane.

Outdoor: Properly applied approved baits can be effective in some situations, but adjacent structures should be properly rodent-proofed before baiting. In a rural setting, the use of baits can unintentionally kill untargeted species, such as birds or pets, and animals that might eat the dead rodents, like birds of prey or pets. Again, traps are preferable.

**Call American Pest Control, Inc. TODAY for service at
382-6366**