



SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY

Winter is coming, and our little rodent friends will be coming inside to find food and a warm place to nest. To safely clean up dead mice, nests, and their droppings, follow the suggested steps below.

Mouse remediation can pose serious health hazards from viruses, bacteria, and allergens found in mouse droppings, urine, and nesting materials.

- Aerosolized particles contaminated with hantavirus can lead to a fatal respiratory disease, with initial symptoms mimicking the flu.
- *Salmonella* bacteria in mice feces can contaminate food preparation surfaces causing food poisoning symptoms if ingested.
- Mice nesting materials and droppings can trigger allergic reactions or asthma attacks.

The most dangerous aspect of mouse remediation is the potential to stir up pathogens, making them airborne and easily inhaled. **DO NOT stir up dust by sweeping or vacuuming.** If you find visible mouse nests, droppings, or dead mice:

1. Put on a particulate mask and disposable gloves (contact EH&S).
2. Open doors, drawers, cabinets, etc., and let mouse areas ventilate for 30 minutes before attempting to clean an area. You may remove and clean all personal items from the areas with a 10% bleach solution (1 part bleach to 9 parts water) or an approved disinfectant.
3. You can apply insect repellent to your clothing, shoes, and hands to reduce the risk of flea bites coming from the mice or their nests.
4. Place paper towels over dead mice, their nest, and droppings. Saturate the paper towels with the dilute bleach solution or use an approved disinfectant so as not to stain any carpet.
5. Wait another five minutes and clean up areas with a paper towel or rag while wearing a mask and gloves. You can also mop up the area.
6. Put dead mice in a plastic bag, along with all nesting materials, droppings, used traps and cleaning paper towels and rags. Seal the bag tightly, then put it in a second plastic bag and seal that as well.
7. Throw the bag into an outside covered trash can that is emptied regularly.
8. Wash your gloved hands with soap and water or a disinfectant before removing your gloves. Then remove your gloves and throw them into the trash, as well.
9. Wash your hands again with soap and warm water after removing your gloves.

Mouse traps should be set around interior spaces to catch mice.

Do not reuse mouse traps. All points of mouse entry should be identified and sealed.

To deter mice, NO FOOD should be stored in offices. Hope this helps!

IMPORTANCE OF MICE AND OTHER RODENTS



DITCH THE POISON AND SAVE THE WHOLE FOOD WEB!

Mice and other rodents are crucial to the food web as a primary food source for many predators, helping to sustain populations of birds of prey, snakes, and carnivorous mammals.

Their role as prey prevents their own overpopulation and directly influences the population success of their predators.

Rodents also play other vital ecological roles, such as seed dispersal and soil aeration through burrowing.

If a rodent or other animals are poisoned, the poison can spread throughout the food web, harming the web predators that eat it.

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