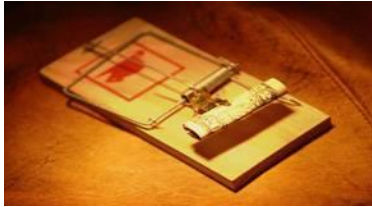


Manage rats and mice yourself



To limit or control rats and mice effectively, you must take away everything that they need for survival. This includes food, water, shelter and ways to get around. Some of the main ways you and your neighbours can limit rodents are:

Take away the places they like to hide, sleep, and nest

- Remove clutter and rubbish from your yard, garage / carport, and basement.
- Move bushes, shrubs and mulch away from the building's foundation.
- Store firewood and piled lumber away from walls and about 1 foot off the ground.
- Keep the grass trimmed, and do not pile grass clippings under shrubs or trees.
- Cut back overgrown or densely planted bushes and trees.

Keep them outdoors

Rats and mice can chew their way into buildings, or can squeeze through very small cracks or holes. In order to keep them out, you can:

- Seal all holes and cracks in the foundation, walls, floors and roof.
- Install sheet metal kick plates on the exterior of doors.
- Install metal flashing between foundations and the ground.

Take away their food and water

- Practice proper composting techniques.
- Remove any fallen fruits or nuts from your yard.
- Clean up any leftover food when your pet is finished eating.
- Do not place food outside for stray animals.
- Remove spilled bird seed from beneath bird feeders.
- Repair leaky pipes or taps that might provide water.
- Use proper garbage cans with tight fitting lids to store garbage.

Take away traces of other rats / mice in the area

- Wash away urine stains, rub marks, and tracks with a mild bleach solution.
- Remove droppings and wash down the area.
- Put dead rodents in plastic bags and put them in the garbage.
 - More than 6 rats... double bag and label the garbage can with warning to driver