Combat the Rat (and other rodents)!

Did you know?

Mice can squeeze through a hole the size of a nickel and rats can squeeze through a hole the size of a half dollar!

Prevention is Key!

Keeping your home free from rodents is all about prevention and exclusion. Don't give them a place to live and food to eat! In case pests have become a problem in your home, call a professional pest management company.

★ YOU are the most important line of defense in the home! ★

CLEAN UP!

Clean up to eliminate rodent food and nesting sources

- All trash/garbage should be put in rodent-proof, watertight containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Arrange bird feeders so that seeds cannot fall on the ground OR keep bird feeders farther away from the house. Use squirrel guards to limit access to the feeder by squirrels and other rodents.
- Eliminate clutter by cutting and removing grass/weed overgrowth.
- Remove old trucks, cars, and old tires.
- Elevate hay, woodpiles, and garbage cans at least 1 foot off the ground.
- Clean up pet waste frequently and keep pet food indoors in containers with tight lids.
- Keep compost bins as far away from the house as possible (100 feet or more is the best). If you suspect rodents, discontinue adding food waste to the compost pile immediately.
- Food from vegetable gardens and fruit trees should not remain on the ground.

★ Rodents love to make their home in clutter! ★

SEAL UP!

Seal up common entrances into the home

- Kitchen cabinets, refrigerators, stoves, floor corners, closets, fireplace, doors, windows, pipes under sinks/washing machines, pipes to hot water heaters/furnaces, floor vents and dryer vents, attic, basement, crawl space, and around electrical, plumbing, cable, and gas lines
- Fill small holes with steel wool and caulked to keep in place.
- Fix large holes with lath screen or lath metal, cement, hardware cloth, or metal sheeting. These materials can be found at any hardware store.
- Sink holes and burrows outside your home should be covered by solidly packed dirt and monitored.

TRAP UP!

Trap up rodents to decrease their populations

- Choose an appropriate trap (snap and/or glue) and add bait to attract rodents.
- Set traps in any area where there is evidence of rodent activity.
- Poison is not recommended because rodents may die in the walls or under the floors, preventing you from removing it.
- If you suspect a rodent infestation, call a professional pest management company.

The North Shore Shared Public Health Services Program

For more information contact your local health department

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.