

## A Mouse in the House

### How to get rid of mice

#### 1. Clean up

- Don't leave any food out.
- Store dry foods in sealed containers.
- Put garbage in animal proof containers with tight fitting lids.
- Clean up food spills and crumbs in cupboards and on counters.
- Store pet and bird food in enclosed containers.

#### 2. Mouse proof your house or apartment

Mice can enter your home through one centimetre (1/4") spaces. Make sure doors and windows have no gaps or holes and are tight fitting. Repair holes and tears in door and window screens. Repair cracks or holes in the foundation of the house. Plug holes around waste and water pipes under sinks and radiators. Plug holes with steel wool and then seal.

#### 3. Monitor

Pinpoint the areas where mice are most active. Look for mouse droppings, damage to food, rub marks, and nests; listen for noises; note urine smells. Keep in mind that mice usually don't travel more than 9 metres (30 feet) from their nest.

#### 4. Control

Use snap traps\* in areas where the mice are active. These areas may include: under sinks, behind fridges and stoves and other appliances, at point of entry, basement areas, attics, false ceilings, and fireplaces. Put traps only in accessible areas so you can get dead mice out. Mice usually stay close to walls as they run, so place traps about two to three centimetres (one inch) from baseboards. Bait traps with peanut butter, raisins, chocolate or bacon. Check the traps daily. \*Snap traps work well for light to moderate infestations. For heavy mouse infestations use catch-all traps or glue boards. Traps are sold in hardware stores as well as pest control supply stores.

#### 5. More control measures

If trapping doesn't get rid of the mice, try bait stations. Bait stations are small trays with \*\*rodenticide (mouse poison). Call an exterminator to find out which poison is best to use. Put the bait stations about 2.5 metres (eight feet) apart along baseboards in the active areas. Remember to check and top up the bait trays daily. \*\*Rodenticides can harm you or your pets. Make sure you read the directions carefully.

For more information about mouse infestations contact a pest control exterminator listed in the yellow pages.

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