

- The plastic bag can then be put in a tightly covered garbage can.
- Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and warm water.
- If you can't use a shovel or another tool to pick up the rodent and must do so by hand, use gloves or other means to cover your hands.

Never touch dead animals with your bare hands and never attempt to handle injured or sick animals.

### ASSISTANCE WITH RODENT CONTROL

If you suspect you have a rodent infestation problem in your home, it is always best to contact a licensed pest control operator to initiate a control and extermination effort. Professionals know the latest and most effective methods, and have the proper supplies and equipment, to deal with the problem safely and efficiently. A list of licensed pest control operators can be obtained from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) through the following link: [http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1569\\_16988\\_35288-11993--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1569_16988_35288-11993--,00.html). Look for operators certified in Categories 7A and 7D.

Advice on choosing the pest control operator best suited to your needs can be found at the following link: <http://www.pested.msu.edu/Resources/pdf/ChoosingPestCompany.pdf>

Also, the Macomb County Health Department or your local municipality can provide you with information to assist you with rodent control.

For additional information contact:  
**Macomb County Health Department**  
**Environmental Health Services Division**

43525 Elizabeth Road  
 Mt. Clemens, MI 48043  
 586- 469-5236

27690 Van Dyke  
 Warren, MI 48093  
 586-465-8030

[www.macombgov.org/publichealth](http://www.macombgov.org/publichealth)



**Mark A. Hackel**  
 County Executive



MACOMB COUNTY HEALTH  
 DEPARTMENT

# Homeowners Guide to Rodent Control



**Environmental Health Division**  
 586-469-5236 (Mt. Clemens)  
 586-465-8030 (Warren)

Mice and rats are destructive and hazardous. They carry viruses and bacteria that can spread diseases to humans and other animals, and their droppings contaminate food and grain supplies. They damage property by gnawing on electrical wires, and wood structures, and also by burrowing and nesting.

### WHERE RODENTS LIVE

- In and under wood piles
- Under bushes and in tall grass/weeds
- In unused cars, furniture, or appliances that have been put outside
- Near sources of food (garbage, grain, pet food, pet waste)
- In crawl spaces
- In wall or ceiling insulation
- Behind or under cabinets or shelving
- In boxes, paper or linens stored in attics or basements

### WHAT RODENTS EAT

#### OUTSIDE:

- Garbage
- Pet food/pet waste
- Bird seed
- Grain
- Fallen fruits and berries

#### INSIDE:

- The same things we eat
- Spilled food or food left out
- Pet food
- Garbage

### KEEPING RODENTS AWAY

#### PRACTICE GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

- Keep all garbage in metal or plastic trash containers with the lids tightly on. Replace containers that are not in good condition.
- Keep grass mowed.
- Remove unnecessary items, junk and debris from property.
- Store wood and lumber at least 18 inches off the ground .
- Seal any holes, cracks or openings in the building masonry or foundation.
- Install door sweeps at the bottom of exterior doors.

#### ELIMINATE FOOD AND WATER SOURCES

- Pick-up pet waste regularly and properly dispose of.
- Do not throw birdseed on the ground. Use feeders that are placed at least 4 feet off the ground.
- Eliminate water leaks and standing water.
- Store bulk food or grain in rodent-proof containers.
- Never add meat scraps to compost piles.

#### RECOGNIZE SIGNS OF RODENTS

- Droppings – black capsule shaped
- Burrow holes – rats live in nests made in burrows in the ground.
- Nests – mice live in nests made in boxes, under cabinets, unused appliances or furniture, etc. Nesting material includes paper, cardboard, fabric, plastic, and insulation.

- Gnaw marks – rodents like to gnaw on wood, wires, stored material, etc.
- Runways – look outdoors for narrow paths where the ground is beaten down and free of debris.

#### EXTERMINATION

- Eliminate food and water sources.
- Utilize snap traps – bait with peanut butter or raw bacon.
- Poison Bait – Rodenticides can be purchased at hardware stores, feed stores, and garden centers. Care must be taken when using poisons to prevent accidental ingestion by children, pets and other animals. Use tamper-resistant bait boxes in areas that are not easily accessible to children or pets and place along walls, in burrows, or in other areas where signs of rodent activity have been observed.

#### DISPOSAL OF DEAD RODENTS

- Many cities have ordinances about dead animal disposal. If your city has an Animal Control program contact them for disposal instructions.

Otherwise:

- Use a shovel to pick up the rodent, wrap it in newspaper, place it in a plastic bag and tie the bag shut.