

RODENT CONTROL METHODS

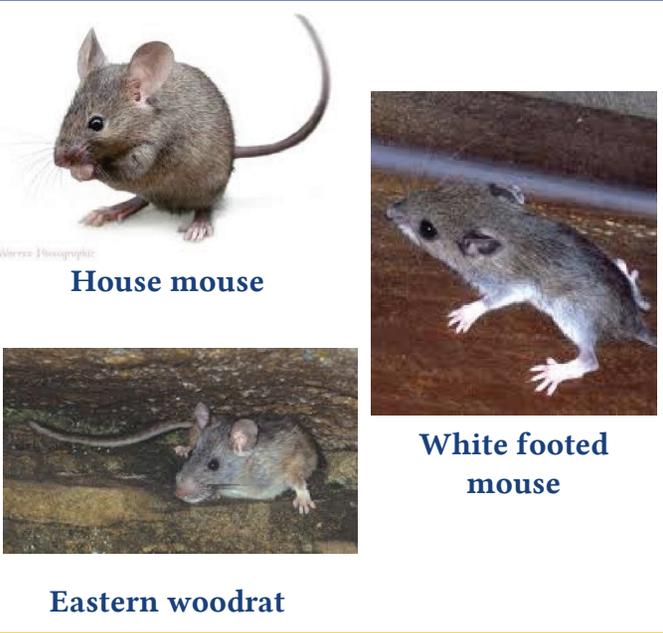
A guide to rodent management

GENERAL INFORMATION

Rodents, such as rats and mice, are known vectors transmitting bacteria to humans. They also leave behind fecal matter and bacteria when gnawing on food or single-use items. Knowing the proper method of control is imperative.

The **four keys** to effectively remove rodents are **inspection, sanitation, exclusion,** and **population reduction.** Satisfactory rodent control will not be achieved unless each of these steps is followed.

COMMON RODENT SPECIES



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RODENT MANAGEMENT

INSPECTION

There are ten signs that a professional should look for when conducting an initial inspection:

- 1. Droppings
- 2. Tracks
- 3. Gnaw marks
- 4. Burrowing
- 5. Runways
- 6. Grease Marks
- 7. Urine Stains
- 8. Live or dead rodents
- 9. Rodent sounds
- 10. Rodent odors

A good inspection provides a better idea of the size of population and the routes taken by the rodents. to intercept them. Proper placements of baits, traps or live traps will depend on the inspection.



SANITATION

In order for a large population of rodents to flourish, there must be an abundance of food and water, as well as easy access to nesting sites. By removing or reducing the factors that make any pest population abundant, you remove and reduce the pest. This is the backbone of Integrated Pest Management, IPM.

Proper storage of possible rodent food, removal of undesirable vegetations such as grass and weeds, and taking care of garbage are just a few examples of good sanitation practices.

EXCLUSION

Controlling rats and mice by making it impossible for them to enter structures is the best way to eliminate and control indoor populations. Although this is not always feasible, exclusion should not be ignored. While it may not always be possible to do extensive rodent proofing, in many cases it can be accomplished with minimal effort.



Eliminate all openings larger than a half inch for rats and a quarter inch for mice. Also repair doors and windows that do not operate properly or shut securely. Do not forget to inspect and repair air vents that may not work properly.

Even after this is done, rodents can slip through open doors and windows, gain access along plumbing and other utility lines or be transported indoors with any merchandise.

POPULATION REDUCTION

To quickly reduce the population of mice, traps and/or baits are used.

The Kansas Food Code requires that rodent bait be contained in a covered, tamper-resistant bait station.

Read, understand and follow all label instructions!

Acceptable devices to use indoors are glue traps and live traps. These items help capture rats or mice that manage to get into the building. The best results will be achieved by killing rodents before they enter the food facility and maintaining a clean property. Keep dumpsters as clean as possible and cut the grass and weeds along fence rows where rodents might hide or enter the property.

