



(800) 465-0986

STEPS TO PREP FOR RODENTS, MICE, AND RATS

You can help your pest control technician rid your home of a mouse or rat problem by completing the following preparation steps prior to service:

1. Make sure that all food that is not in a can or jar is stored in the refrigerator or heavy plastic container during and after service. This includes chips, candies, nuts, cereals, bread, any grain-based food, pet foods, etc. Although usually bagged, rodents can chew through plastic bags to get to foods.
2. Repair any holes in walls, around baseboards, or doors that don't seal properly (rental residents should report these to management for repair). This is because mice can enter through gaps as small as $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and rats through holes as small as $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter.
3. Remove all items from the top of the refrigerator, beneath sinks, and the bottom drawer of the stove, to allow access to these areas.
4. When the technician arrives, discuss the situation with him or her, making note of areas where mice or signs of mice have been seen.
5. The technician may be setting and placing a variety of baits and traps. Do not touch or disturb these except to remove a rodent that may have been caught in a trap or glue board.
6. For ongoing control, clean, sweep, vacuum the home regularly. Take out the trash on a regular basis, keep lids on trash cans, and keep all areas as clean as possible.
7. Eliminate any unnecessary storage including boxes and papers because rodents (and other pests) can take shelter, gnaw the items to make their nests, and even breed in undisturbed areas.
8. IF you have a crawl space access, please clear things off of it and show technician where it is – (Normally found in floor of closet).
9. ****Exterior**** Make sure garbage cans have tight closed lids. Bird feeders and compost bins are away from the structure and any outside pet food is picked up after feeding.

10. To achieve full control, the mice (or rats) need to be attracted to the rodent bait and traps used. When you follow the steps listed above, the pest control technician can more effectively rid your home of the problem and it is more likely that you will be able to maintain a rodent-free home.