

Rodent Prevention

The two most common species of mice in Canada are deer mice and house mice. When they invade your home they are seeking food, water, and warmth, often due to falling temperatures as winter approaches. In populated areas, mice like to live near humans. This gives them reliable food and water, warm shelter, and protection from predators. They often invade homes and businesses to build their nests in dark secluded places like wall voids, attics, pantries, and garages.

Mouse feces and urine, as well as the tracks of detritus the rodents regularly leave behind, contaminate surfaces in living/working areas.

Deer mice can carry and transmit Hantavirus, a rare respiratory disease, in their saliva, urine, and feces. This disease can be fatal in humans and there is no known cure. Even small particles of deer mouse waste in the air can spread the disease. Mice can also transmit diseases like tularemia, lymphocytic chorio-meningitis, and murine typhus, while rats can transmit bubonic plague, Weil's disease, toxoplasmosis, and trichinosis.

HOW CAN I PREVENT MICE FROM INVADING?

- Check wiring for chew marks and gnawing
- Check the walls for rubbing marks or holes
- Look out for small, pellet-like droppings
- Keep food preparation areas clean
- Clean up spills and crumbs immediately, remove food sources, including bird feeders
- Clean and rotate dumpsters regularly, make sure trash cans are covered tightly
- Trim back vegetation from building exterior
- Seal any cracks or holes with caulk or foam
- Fix leaky soda or ice machines and HVAC units
- Remove any standing water outside
- Don't leave doors open for a long time
- Install weather strips around doors and windows

Safety Talk Discussion

Be Accountable: Choose safety - work safe - and go home injury free!