



House Mouse
Norway Rat
Roof Rat

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RODENTS – Mice and Rats

The three most common pest rodents are the house mouse, the Norway rat and the roof rat. Rodents will eat practically anything a human eats, and will gnaw through many different materials to reach a location. All three possess a keen sense of hearing, smell and touch, and can swim, jump, run and climb very well.

The house mouse is grey, 7.5 -10 cm in length from nose to base of the tail, has large ears, and small eyes. The tail is the same length as the body and head combined. A female mouse can have 5 – 10 litters in an average 1-year lifespan. Each litter will have 6 -8 pups, so populations expand rapidly. They mature and reproduce 2 – 3 months after birth. The house mouse is a nibbler, preferring to eat many times during the day, and can consume 10 – 15 percent of their body weight in food. The food they eat provides most of their daily water requirements. They nest close to their food supply, usually hidden places by cabinets, walls, and in the attic insulation. They can squeeze through a gap of 10 mm, and holes the size of a dime. The droppings, which are about 3 mm long and black in color, have a strong musty smell

The Norway rat is the largest of the three rodents and is light grey on the underbody, shading to a brown-grey upper body. They range 18 – 25 cm in length from blunt nose to base of the tail, and weigh up to 500 grams. The scaly tail is shorter than the combined length of their head and body. Female Norway rats have 5 to 12 litters each, with 8-12 young per litter. The average lifespan is less than 1 year. They nest near their water and food supply, between walls or under floors. Outside they burrow along foundations and beneath woodpiles or rubbish. The droppings are an average length of 2 cm, with blunt ends.

The roof rat is smaller than the Norway rat and black to dark brown in color. They range 15 – 21 cm in length from pointed nose to base of the tail, and weigh up to 400 grams. The tail is longer than the combined length of the head and body. Female roof rats can have up to 7 litters each with 8-12 young. The average lifespan is less than 18 months. They nest near their water and food supply, in ceilings and attics. The droppings are up to 1.25 cm in length, with pointed ends.

The Norway rat and roof rat will enter through a gap of 1.25 cm, and holes the size of a quarter.

Pre and post treatment instructions

1. Sanitation is an important part of rodent control. Keep garbage in tightly sealed rodent-proof containers.
2. Do not leave exposed pet food outside.
3. Remove rubbish and vegetation from close to perimeter of building.
4. Prevent further rodent entry. Inspect exterior of building for openings larger than 10 mm and repair with rodent-proof material.