

Protection Against Hantavirus

How to safely clean-up rodent droppings, dead rodents, and nests

Hantavirus Carriers



Deer mouse

- Other culprits include: the white-footed mouse, the rice rat, and the cotton rat

Rodent Nests



- Made out of paper, tissue, insulation, and stuffing from furniture

Step One



- Wear rubber or plastic gloves

Step Two

- Spray cleaning solution on rodent droppings, dead rodents, and nests



- There are various acceptable cleaning solutions
 - A mixture of bleach and water (add 1 ½ cups bleach to 1 gallon water or add 1 part bleach to 9 parts water)
 - Any general-purpose household disinfectant (the word “disinfectant” must appear on the label)

Step Three



- Wait 5 minutes
- Wipe droppings up with a paper towel
 - Note: you may dispose of the paper towel in the garbage

Step Three



- Place dead rodent or nest in a sealed plastic bag
- Place first sealed plastic bag inside a second sealed plastic bag
 - Note: you may dispose of the double bagged package in a covered trash can that is emptied regularly

Step Four



- Scrub, sponge, or mop area with an acceptable cleaning solution (bleach and water mixture or household disinfectant)

Step Five

- While keeping gloves on, wash hands with soap and water

OR

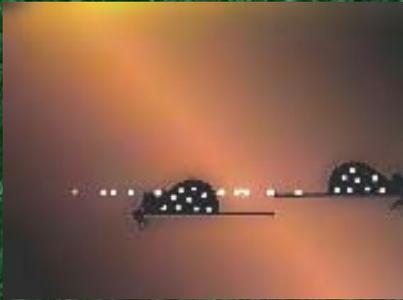
- Spray cleaning solution on gloves prior to removing them

Step Six



- After removing gloves, wash hands with soap and water

DANGER



- Never vacuum or sweep when cleaning up rodent infested areas
 - Virus particles escape into the air and then they can be breathed in

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How to deter mice and rats from making your home into their home

4 Basic Rules of Thumb

- 1) Rodent proofing
 - Long-term
- 2) Food and harborage elimination
 - More food = more rodents
- 3) Continuous trapping/poison program
 - Year round effort in rural areas
- 4) Clean up precautions

1) Rodent proofing



- Locate and seal any holes and gaps that a pencil can fit through (especially gaps in trailer skirts)

Where to locate holes and gaps



- Kitchen cabinets, closets, fireplaces, floor corners, doors, windows, dryer and floor air vents, electric and gas lines, basements, crawl spaces, and attics
- Pipes and plumbing associated with sinks, washing machines, hot water heaters, and furnaces
- Between the foundation and the house and/or between the roof and the house

How to seal holes and gaps



- Large holes: lath metal screen, metal sheeting, hardware cloth, and cement
 - Cut screen to fit around pipes or fold screen to push into holes and gaps
- Small holes: steel wool and caulk
 - Fill holes and gaps with steel wool and caulk around steel wool to secure





2) Food and harborage elimination



- Inside the home
 - Store food and garbage inside sturdy plastic or metal containers covered tightly with a lid
 - Practice timely clean up of spilled food and/or cooking utensils and dishes
 - Do not allow your pets' food and water dishes to remain filled overnight

2) Food and harborage elimination

- Outside the home
 - Store garbage and all animal feed inside sturdy plastic or metal containers covered tightly with a lid
 - Trim and/or remove weeds, brush, shrubbery, and grass that is within 100 feet of your home



2) Food and harborage elimination

- Outside the home
 - Remove old automobiles, tires, and other items from around your home
 - Relocate woodpiles, hay, and composting bins so that they are at least 100 feet away from your home (raise woodpiles and hay at least 1 foot off the ground)



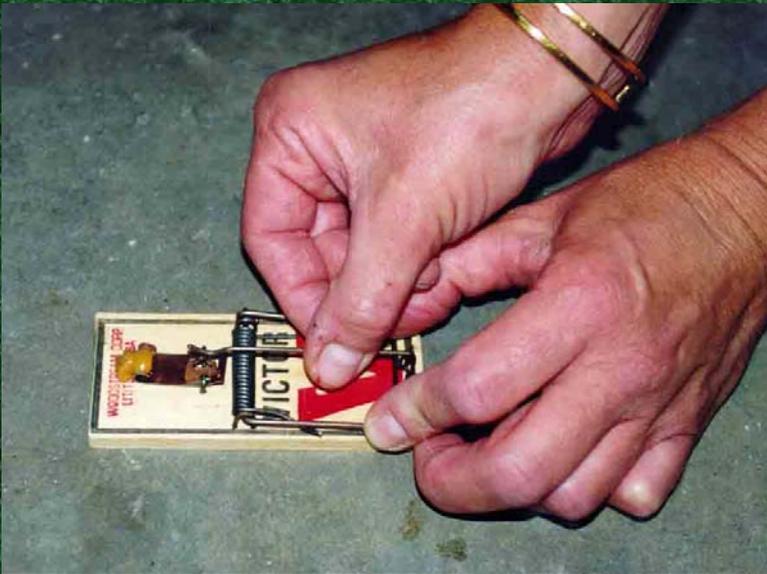
3) Continuous trapping/poison program

- Trap tips
 - Read the instructions that accompany the trap
 - Position the trap perpendicular to the wall
 - Keep children and pets away from traps and bait
 - Chunky peanut butter is a very effective snap trap bait
 - Choose the trap to fit the type of rodent you intend on catching



3) Continuous trapping/poison program

- Trap tips
 - Place traps in areas where you have seen rodents, droppings, and nests or where you suspect the rodents are entering your home
 - Do NOT use live or glue traps because live rodents urinate and defecate once caught which increases your risk of becoming infected
 - Check traps regularly and refill or move them when necessary



4) Clean up precautions



- When cleaning mouse or rat infested areas
 - Wear rubber gloves
 - Wet contaminated areas with disinfectant
 - Dispose of dead rodents or nests properly
 - Disinfect used gloves

4) Clean up precautions

- Never stir up and breath dust
 - Do not sweep up contaminated areas

