

Protection against Hantavirus

Safely clean-up rodent droppings, dead rodents, and nests

1. Wear rubber or plastic gloves
2. Spray cleaning solution on rodent droppings, dead rodents, and nests
 - There are various acceptable cleaning solutions
 - A homemade mixture of bleach and water (add 1 ½ cups bleach to 1 gallon water or one part bleach to 9 equal parts water)
 - Any general-purpose household disinfectant (the word “disinfectant” must appear on the label)
3. Wait 5 minutes to allow full absorption and time to kill the virus
4. Wipe droppings up with a paper towel and dispose of in the trashcan
5. Pick up saturated dead rodents and nesting material with a paper towel. Double bag and dispose of in a trashcan
6. Give a final cleaning to the area by scrubbing, sponging, or mopping with a bleach and water mixture or household disinfectant
7. 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 and expose you to Hantavirus.

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Rodent Proofing

1. Locate and seal any holes and gaps that a pencil can fit through
 - a. Inside and outside the structure
 - b. Cracks in foundation
 - c. Between the roof and the house
 - d. Pipe and plumbing holes for sinks, water heaters, furnaces and wash machines
 - e. Especially important for trailer skirts
2. Food elimination
 - a. Keep food and garbage cleaned up in sturdy plastic or metal containers covered tightly
 - b. Practice timely clean up of spilled food
 - c. Do not allow your pets' food and water dishes to remain filled
3. Harborage elimination
 - a. Trim and/or remove weeds, brush, shrubbery, and grass that is within 100 feet of your home
 - b. Remove old automobiles, tires, and other items from around your home
 - c. Relocate woodpiles, hay, and composting bins so that they are at least 100 feet away from your home
 - i. If possible, raise woodpiles and hay at least 1 foot off ground
4. Continuous trapping/poison program
 - a. Keep traps and poison away from children and pets
 - b. Place traps in areas where you have seen rodents or proof of rodents and where you suspect they may be entering the home
 - c. DO NOT use live or glue traps because live rodents urinate and defecate once caught which increases your risk
 - d. Check traps regularly and refill