



Western Prevention Tips

Keep Invasive Rodents Out of Your Home

Useful Rodent Facts

- Mice can fit through openings as small as the size of a dime.
- Mice can survive on very little food. They do not need to drink water – they absorb it from their food.
- Curious creatures by nature, mice like to explore. They are excellent climbers and can run up and down walls.
- Rats only need a gap the size of a quarter to enter a home.
- Rats are neophobic, meaning they do not like new things in their environment. They will change their movement patterns if something new, such as a trap, is introduced, making them harder to capture.
- Roof rats prefer to be up high, in trees, along rooftops, in attics, and ceilings.
- Norway rats tend to inhabit lower areas and like to burrow outside.

Common House-Infesting Rodents

Depending on where you live, you may encounter different species of rats and mice. Here are three that are common in many areas.



Mus musculus
(house mouse)
Entire U.S.



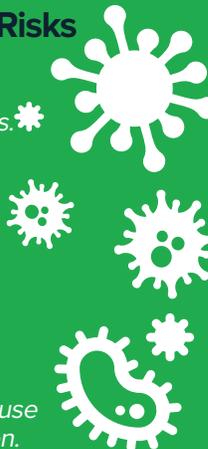
Rattus norvegicus
(Norway rat or brown rat)
Entire U.S.



Rattus rattus
(roof rat)
Southern & Coastal states

Diseases, Disease-Causing Pathogens & Health Risks Associated with Rodents in North America

- **Allergies** - Fur, droppings, and urine can cause allergic reactions.*
- **Hantavirus** - Severe respiratory illness caused by contact with infected rodents and their excrement. Can be fatal.
- **Plague** - Disease caused by bacteria spread by a rodent flea. Can be severe and result in death if left untreated.
- **Leptospirosis** - Bacterial disease spread through contact with urine of infected rodents, which can be present in soil or water. Can cause organ failure, meningitis, and death.
- **Salmonellosis** - Salmonella bacteria is shed by rodents. Can cause diarrhea, fever, cramping, and result in sickness or hospitalization.
- **Rat-bite fever** - Bacterial disease contracted through contact with rodents or by consuming food or water contaminated by rodents.



Protect Your Home & Family

- ✓ Seal openings, gaps, and cracks with rodent-proof materials; don't forget about gaps around pipes.
- ✓ Ensure garage doors seal flush to the ground.
- ✓ Screen/cover outdoor vents.
- ✓ Keep firewood stored at a distance from your home.
- ✓ Keep vegetation trimmed to eliminate rodent hiding places.
- ✓ Ensure no tree branches touch the roof or sides of your home.
- ✓ Put away pet food and water after your pets finish eating.
- ✓ Store grains, cereals, pet foods, and dry foods in air-tight containers.
- ✓ In storage areas, remove clutter to reduce rodent hiding places.
- ✓ Keep outdoor garbage containers tightly sealed.
- ✓ Have a professional crawl space inspection annually to spot issues.
- ✓ Improperly installed insulation can allow pests to harbor in attics. Inspect annually for problems.
- ✓ Clean up bird feeding areas to avoid attracting pests.

Western
Exterminator Company



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Your Local Pest Control Experts

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