

# DOMESTIC RODENTS

Some General Tips on Rodent Control

## NORWAY RAT — *Rattus norvegicus*

## ROOF RAT — *Rattus rattus*

## HOUSE MOUSE — *Mus musculus*



**TAIL** — Shorter than head & body  
**BODY** — Heavy, thick  
**EAR** — Small  
**EYE** — Small  
**NOSE** — Blunt  
 (Also known as Wharf, Sewer, Brown, Common)

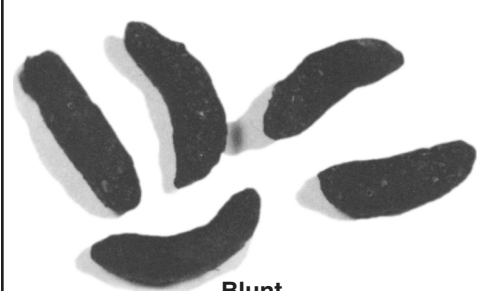


**TAIL** — Longer than head & body  
**BODY** — Slender  
**EAR** — Large  
**EYE** — Large  
**NOSE** — Pointed  
 (Also known as Black, Fruit, Ship)

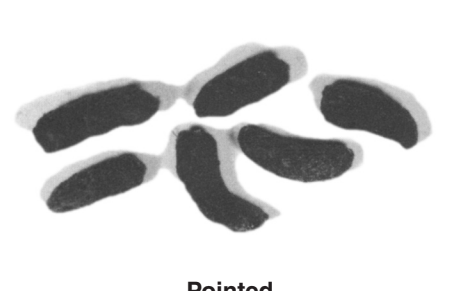


**FEET** — Small  
**HEAD** — Small

### DROPPINGS



**Blunt**  
 Average Length 3/4"  
 (shown actual size)



**Pointed**  
 Average Length 1/2"  
 (shown actual size)



**Pointed**  
 Average Length 1/4"  
 (shown actual size)

### RODENTS — Family Muridae

NAME	AVERAGE WEIGHT	BODY	TAIL	EARS	COLOR	FOOD PREFERENCES	FOOD CONSUMED PER DAY	DROPPINGS PER DAY	URINE PER DAY (cc)	HABITS
Norway Rat <i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	10 - 17 ounces	Heavy, broad, 7" - 10" long, blunt head	6" - 8.5" long, lighter color on underside	Average, close to body	Brown to black on back and sides, gray to yellow-white on belly	Meats, fish, flour, fruits, vegetables. Eats most any human food.	3/4 - 1 oz. food 1/2 - 1 oz. water	30 - 180	15.7 cc	Usually nests in basements & lower portions of buildings. Burrows in soil extensively. Active primarily at night. Fair climber, good swimmer.
							# young in litter 6 - 18	# litters per year 3 - 7	Length adult life 18 mos.	
Roof Rat <i>Rattus rattus</i>	6 - 12 ounces	Slender body 6.5" - 8" long, pointed muzzle	7.5" - 10" long. Uniform color, top and bottom	Large, prominent	Tawny back grayish-white underparts	Seeds, fruits, vegetables, grain, eggs, etc.	1/2 - 1 oz. food up to 1 oz. water	30 - 180	15.7 cc	Usually enters and nests in upper portions of buildings. May nest outside in trees (esp. palms), ivy, etc. Burrows very little. Excellent climber. Active at night.
							# young in litter 6 - 14	# litters per year 3 - 7	Length adult life 18 mos.	
House Mouse <i>Mus musculus</i>	1/2 - 3/4 ounce	Average body 2.5" - 3.5" long	3" - 4"	Large, prominent	Dusky gray on back, lighter gray on belly	Meats, grains, cereals, seeds, fruits, vegetables. Eats most any type human food.	1/10 oz. food 1/20 oz. water	50	1.75 cc	May nest in any portion of a building near food. Has an average range of 50 ft. from nest. Active mostly at night. Nibbles small amounts of food frequently, rather than having large meals.
							# young in litter 6	# litters per year 8	Length adult life 15 - 18 mos.	

## SANITATION

- Reduce harborage by eliminating weeds, refuse piles, overgrown vegetation, and rubbish piles.
- Place garbage and trash in garbage cans and industrial dumpsters with tight fitting covers.
- Sanitation is the cornerstone of lasting rodent control. There is no substitute for sanitation, and the program must be continuous or the benefits derived from sanitation will be quickly lost to reinvading rodents.
- Eliminate as much of the rodent's water source as possible, as rats need water daily and mice will drink free-standing water if available.

## EXCLUSION

- It is much easier to control rodents outside of a structure rather than within, so the most successful and permanent form of rodent control is to "build them out."
- Cracks and openings in building foundations must be sealed.
- Doors, windows, and screens should be tight-fitting.
- Use materials that are rodent "gnawproof" such as sheet metal, expanded metal, perforated metal, iron grills, hardware cloth, and cement mortar. Materials having an opening of 1/4 inch or less will exclude both rats and mice.

## BAITING

- Place baits in safe secluded areas where rodents are frequenting. Proper placement of bait is more important than the type of bait used.
- Put out more bait than you think is necessary. Underbaiting is one of the most common mistakes in rodent control.
- Use bait forms that are best suited for the particular conditions, such as wax blocks for damp areas, cereal (meal) baits where bait security is a must, and tracking powders where competitive foods are abundant.
- Be sure to follow label directions and use bait stations and the newer tamper-resistant stations when necessary.
- Store baits in areas where chemical contamination will not occur. Rodents can detect the contamination and will not consume the contaminated bait.

## NON - CHEMICAL CONTROL

- Trapping is recommended where poisons are inadvisable, such as commercial kitchens, homes, schools, etc.
- Glue traps are effective when placed in a rodent's runway between their harborage area and their feeding area, but they will not work in a wet or dusty environment.
- Snap traps work well on both rats and mice. When trapping for rats it is best to place the traps unset, but baited, for several days to acclimate the rats to the traps. Mice will readily investigate snap traps, and little balls of cotton tied to the triggers work well as a "bait."
- Automatic traps are very effective for capturing mice, but they will not work on rats. Place them in the same manner as you would baits.

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