



The most common types of rodents found in our area are the House Mouse and the Norway and Roof Rats.

- House mice are grayish-brown in color with large ears and small eyes, and their tail is 3-4 inches long. Mice have keen senses of smell, touch, and hearing. Their droppings have pointed ends, are about ¼ inch in size, and a mouse averages about 50 droppings a day.
- Roof and Norway rats are brownish-gray to black in color with tails that are 6-10 inches long. They require about one ounce of food a day to survive. Rat droppings have rounded ends, are about 1/2 -3/4 inch in size, and a rat will average about 30-180 droppings a day.

What are their habits?

- Both rats and mice are excellent climbers and can jump high.
- Rats and mice run along walls and follow the scent of others.
- The average life span for both is about 1 year.
- A mouse reaches sexual maturity at about 1-2 months of age;
- a rat at about 2-3 months of age.
- Both rats and mice breed year-round.
- A female mouse produces between 5-10 litters annually, consisting of 3-14 young; a female rat produces 4-7 litters annually, consisting of 8-12 young.



Why should I be concerned?

Aside from the damage and destruction rodents can cause to your facility and food items, they carry many diseases:

- Salmonellosis, Leptospirosis, Lymphocytic Chorio-Meningitis (LCM), and Rat-Bite Fever.
- Plague (plague is caused by fleas that are carried by rodents).

What are methods of prevention?

Practicing good sanitation and rodent proofing the inside and outside of buildings are the best methods of preventing rodent problems.

Outside

- Cover all trash containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Keep landscaping neat and trimmed away from buildings.
- Remove all wood and debris from the property or store off the ground.
- Make sure exterior doors are tight-fitting; avoid propping doors open.



Inside

- Seal all cracks and crevices in your building, including penetrations around pipes and conduit.
- Install tight-fitting windows and screens.
- Store all open food in tight-fitting containers.
- Remove all unused equipment from the facility to prevent harborage areas.