

Prevent Rodents From Getting Into Your Cabin

Small rodents can get through openings as small as $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. Cover or screen all openings to your cabin that are large enough for a rodent to enter.

Store all human and animal food in rodent-proof containers (metal, glass or plastic) with tight-fitting lids, no holes or open seams. Do not leave pet food in feeding dishes overnight.

Store household garbage inside the cabin, in a rodent-proof container.

Wash dishes and cooking utensils after each use. Remove all spilled food from counters and floors immediately.

Outside Your Cabin

Remove all garbage and other possible food sources from the area surrounding the cabin.

Cut back the grass, brush and dense shrubbery to 100 feet from the cabin.

Place woodpiles at least 100 feet from the cabin, and at least 12 inches off the ground.

Remove abandoned vehicles, discarded tires and any items that may serve as rodent nesting sites.

For more information, please contact your local Community Health Office, or one of the regional offices of the Animal Health Division, Department of Natural Resources.

References and Links:

“Hantavirus in Deer Mice”; Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety:

www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/diseases/hantavir.html

“Hantavirus in Deer Mice”

www.nr.gov.nl.ca/agric/animal_diseases/public_safety/default.stm

Other information pamphlets are available online from the Department of Natural Resources at:

www.nr.gov.nl.ca/agric/

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Keep Your Cabin Rodent-Free



Cabins that have been closed for the winter may become ideal nesting sites for various rodents. These rodents may carry organisms in their feces and urine which are harmful to humans. Certain organisms have the potential to cause serious diseases in humans, especially when inhaled by simply cleaning up feces or nesting sites left behind after winter.

This pamphlet is designed to aid in the successful and safe clean up of your cabin if you find yourself in the situation of having unwanted guests over the winter.

Always Remember:

Avoid unprotected contact with rodent feces, urine, nesting materials and all food or surfaces that have been contaminated by rodents.

Wear rubber or latex gloves and a disposable N95 respirator when handling dead rodents, cleaning traps, rodent droppings, nesting sites and all other areas that rodents may have visited.

Cleaning Up

When opening up a cabin that has not been occupied for an extended period of time, check the cabin thoroughly for signs of rodents (feces, shredded furniture, eaten food). Open doors and windows to let the air circulate before you begin to clean or use the cabin. Leave the cabin and go outside for at least 30 minutes while the cabin airs.

If you find rodent nests, droppings and urine, or dead rodents inside the cabin, use the following guidelines when attempting to clean the area:

Use a 1:10 bleach solution ($\frac{1}{2}$ cup of household bleach with 5 cups of water) in a clean spray bottle to spray the rodents, rodent droppings, urine, nesting sites and the surrounding area until it is thoroughly soaked.

Wait 10 - 15 minutes. (For carpets and materials that may be damaged by bleach, you may need to use other types of disinfectants.)

Removing Dead Rodents

Wearing latex or rubber gloves and a disposable N95 respirator, pick up the dead rodents and place them in a plastic bag and seal it. Place this in a second plastic bag, and seal it.

Dispose of the bag with the dead rodents, droppings and other materials, either at an approved waste disposal or landfill site, by burying the material at least 2 feet deep, or by burning it.

Removing Rodent Nests and Droppings

Once you have removed dead rodents, droppings and nesting material from your cabin, clean and disinfect the cabin in the following manner:

- Mop floors with the 1:10 bleach solution. DO NOT dry sweep floors. Avoid all activity that will stir up dust.
- You may wish to steam clean or shampoo carpets and furniture.
- Clean all surfaces that rodents may have traveled on while inhabiting your cabin (e.g. countertops, cabinets and drawers) with the 1:10 bleach solution.
- Wash bedding and clothing the rodents may have been in contact with, in hot water and detergent. Double bag any laundry that you are taking home to clean. DO NOT reuse the plastic garbage bags.

Removing Live Rodents From Your Cabin

- Use approved traps according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Set traps in areas where rodents are nesting and in pathways they are likely using to move around inside your cabin.
- Examine traps regularly and remove any animals immediately.

Use of Rodent Poison

If you decide to use rodent poisons, follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully

- **DO NOT** place poisons where children or pets can reach them.
- **DO NOT** place poisons near food, clothing or bedding.

If you develop any skin rash or breathing problems, or if you are injured or bitten while cleaning up rodents, please see your family doctor.