

How to kill rats and mice

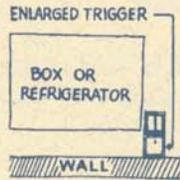
Commercial Products and Services

Rodent-control supplies can be obtained at local stores. Traps and poisons are sold under various trade names, with the active ingredient given on the label.

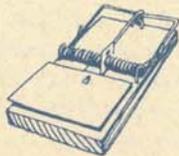
The pest-control industry offers professional service in rat control. Elimination, rat-proofing, and advice on sanitation can be obtained from your local pest-control operator or exterminator.

Wooden-Base Snap Traps

Enlarge the trigger with wire screening or cardboard and place trap behind boxes along walls so that rats must pass over the trigger. Use several traps. Have 10 or 12 on hand.



If baits are to be used on the regular trigger, use foods such as peanut butter with uncooked oatmeal, or tie small pieces of bacon, cotton, raisins or gumdrops to the trigger.

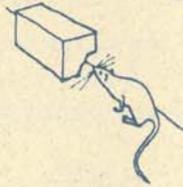


Poisons

Don't use poisons inside the house unless rats or mice are very numerous. In baiting outside, don't miss the wood piles, storage sheds, fence rows, etc. To poison rats, follow the directions on the label closely.



A continuous supply of fresh bait should be made available for at least 10 days, or longer if rats are still feeding on it. Put out under bait boxes or other cover. The bait supply must be continually checked and replenished to kill all the rats on the premises. Use at least four ounces at each station.



As the bait must be fed on for long periods, protective covers or "bait stations" are recommended to protect it from the weather and other animals. This also increases its attractiveness as rats prefer to eat in secure places.



How do you dispose of dead rats and mice?

Dispose of dead rodents by placing them in sturdy plastic bags and seal the bag tightly. Place in regular garbage for pickup. Use gloves and tools to pick up dead rodents. Do not touch with bare hands. Always wash hands thoroughly after disposing and clean up activities.



Who is responsible for rat and mice control?

Since rats move from one place to another, control is the responsibility of everyone.

Community action by public-spirited groups and governmental agencies, such as the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District, can reduce rat populations. Temporary campaigns help, but a permanent working organization is essential for effective longtime control. All plans should include the basic principles of food protection, shelter removal, rat-proofing and killing rats.

Do you have a question about rodent control?

Call the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District at **750-5464** and ask to speak with a health inspector. A health inspector will be happy to speak with you about rodent control and related issues.

*Information from the U.S.
Departments of the Interior and Health
Centers for Disease Control*



**Waco-McLennan County
Public Health District**
225 W. Waco Drive
Waco, Texas 76707
(254) 750-5450
www.waco-texas.com



**Waco-McLennan County
Public Health District**

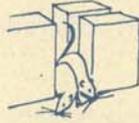


RAT CONTROL

Distributed by the City of Waco

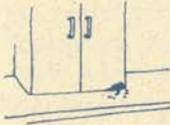


How to inspect for rats



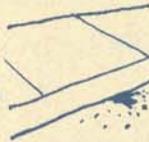
Live Rats

Switch on lights in a dark room and look and listen for scampering rats. Move stored merchandise to uncover harborage.



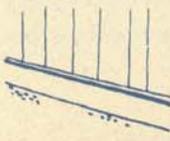
Gnawings

Look for signs around doors, windows, utility lines and packaged goods, especially in food storage.



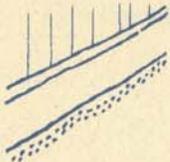
Burrows

Holes and fresh diggings about foundations, under floors, sidewalks, platforms, embankments - all may mean rats.



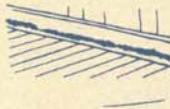
Droppings

Fresh droppings are a sure sign. Look behind objects near walls and in places seldom cleaned or disturbed.



Tracks

Examine dusty places for rat tracks, especially along walls. If not visible, dust flour along suspected runways and observe for a few days.



Smears

Look for darkened areas along walls adjacent to pipes, beams and openings where rats travel.

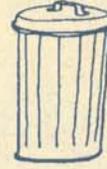


Test Baiting

Place food where rats can find it and observe results.

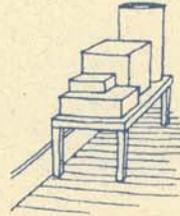
How do we keep rats and mice out of the home?

There are four essentials for good rat control: (1) eliminate the sources of food, (2) remove shelter, (3) rat-proof, and (4) kill rats.



Starve Them Out

Keep garbage and refuse in tightly covered metal containers. Store food in rat-proof containers, rooms or buildings. Keep entire area clean.



Remove Their Shelter Inside the Home

Store materials on stands about 12 to 18 inches above the floor. Do not allow litter, debris or food to accumulate on the floor behind the sink, stove or cabinets. Set them flush against the wall or far enough away so that the space can be easily cleaned.



Outside the Home

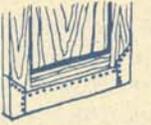
Do not pile wood, etc. near or against walls. Keep stored materials (boxes, lumber, pipe, etc.) up off the ground. Have a space of 12-18 inches beneath. Keep pet food in covered containers. Remove pet food bowls and uneaten food nightly. Clean up dog and cat feces daily. Clean up and remove brush piles, junk and debris in your yard. Trim trees and bushes so limbs do not touch walls and roof.

Build Them Out

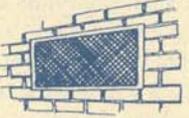
Close necessary openings such as windows, doors and vents with 1/4-inch wire mesh (hardware cloth). Screen foundation vents and access holes.



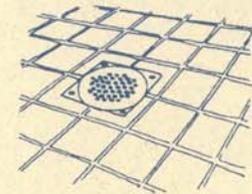
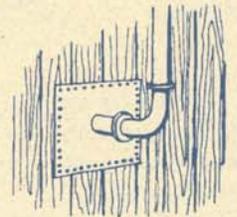
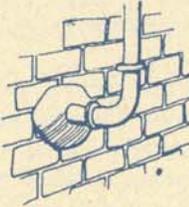
Keep doors closed when not in use. Use a good spring to make sure door closes and a spring lock to make sure it stays closed.



Cover all edges subject to gnawing with sheet metal or hardware cloth.



Close unnecessary openings with concrete or sheet metal. Fit pieces of sheet metal around pipes to make a collar through which rodents cannot gnaw. Caulk and fill gaps and cracks in walls and floors and around pipes and wiring.



Why do we have rats?

Rats are attracted by trash piles, open garbage cans, unkept fence rows and junk piles. They like to be around people where they can find food and shelter.

How do rats and mice get into the home?

- ▶ Through open or unscreened doors and windows.
- ▶ Under shallow foundations of the house.
- ▶ Through cracks and breaks in the foundation or walls.
- ▶ Through holes around electrical inlets or pipes that enter the foundation or through the walls.
- ▶ Through holes in the floor around piping (water, etc.)
- ▶ May be carried in with potatoes, carrots, etc..