

## Pest Tip of the Month



# Mice



The house mouse is the most commonly encountered and economically important of the commensal rodents. They prefer dark, secluded places with little disturbance and plenty of nesting material, such as paper, fabric, insulation, packing materials, cotton.

### Risk

Rodents are not only a nuisance, they damage and destroy materials by gnawing, and eat and contaminate stored food. They are also a human health concern as disease carriers or vectors. Hantavirus is a serious and potentially deadly illness caused by deer mice.

### Interesting Facts

- Over a 6-month period, a pair of mice can eat about 4 pounds (1.8 kg.) of food, produce about 18,000 droppings, and void about 12 oz. (355 ml) of urine.
- The most common way mice transmit disease organisms is by contaminating food with their droppings and urine.
- Mice are able to enter a structure through a hole the size of a dime.
- The most threatening organism spread by mice is Salmonella, a cause of food poisoning, spread via droppings.

### Prevention

- Rodents enter buildings through many routes including doors, unscreened vents, pipe and utility openings, and dock plates. Sealing these areas will prevent entry.
- Inspect incoming goods for signs of mice including droppings and gnaw marks.
- In most areas, there is a population of rodents that live outside of the facility, called a reservoir population. By removing food, water and harborage from the immediate vicinity, the reservoir population is moved farther away from the buildings, reducing the likelihood of rodent immigration into the building.
- Rodents normally live close to food sources and travel along well established pathways. They are generally wary of new items introduced into this environment. Improving sanitation to reduce the food supply and removing debris disrupts the rodents' behavior. This causes them to search for food in unfamiliar territory, making them more susceptible to traps and baits.



*With the arrival of seasonal decorations such as hay bales, pumpkins and corn stocks we often see an increase in mice. Additionally, winter weather makes food in short supply outdoors forcing mice to look for food and shelter in nearby buildings like your business. As Fall approaches, keep doors closed, install door sweeps and seal gaps to prevent mice from entering.*



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