

HEALTH HAZARDS from Rodents

- ✓ Rodents contaminate food and can make people sick.
- ✓ Rodents leave urine and fecal droppings wherever they travel, feed or nest.
- ✓ More than 200 germs can be transmitted by rodents in their saliva, fecal droppings or urine.
- ✓ A protein in rodent urine can cause allergic reactions in some people.
- ✓ Rodents can cause house fires by gnawing on wires.
- ✓ Baby rodents mature in 2-5 months and can produce up to six litters a year. A pair of rats and their offspring could multiply to 278 rats in one year!

How to Identify and Control



and



**Town of Milton
525 Canton Ave
Milton, MA, 02186**

Credit to: Courtesy of Fairfax County BOH

RATS and MICE: An Introduction

Rats and mice are rodents that are commonly found living near people. They can be very destructive to homes, and can carry germs that make people sick. They often make their nests in and around people's homes and office buildings.

The most common rodents encountered by residents in Massachusetts are the Norway rat and the house mouse. Both of these rodents are very good at jumping, climbing, swimming, gnawing and squeezing through very small spaces.



Common (Norway) RAT

The Norway rat digs and travels through burrows, and will nest up to 150 feet from its food supply. It can make a nest in your home by gnawing holes in sheds and walls, etc., or squeezing through cracks and crevices in foundations, vents, etc.

FACT: Rats can squeeze through spaces as small as a quarter!



House MOUSE

The house mouse usually makes a nest in stored materials indoors, but can also live outside, burrowing in areas around fields and lawns. Mice often become a problem in the fall when they enter homes to seek warmth. Mice tend to nest only 10 to 30 feet from their food supply.

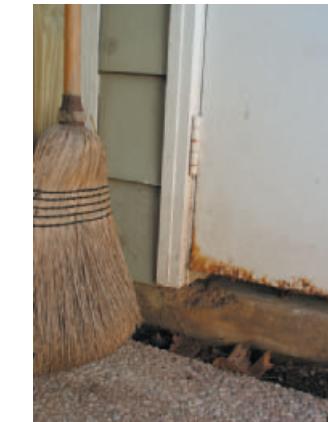
FACT: Mice can squeeze through spaces as small as a dime!

Is Your Home Open to RATS and MICE?

Rats and mice often make their nests in and around people's homes and office buildings. Rodents are not picky about economic level or social status. If your home or building can provide shelter and a food source, you are inviting rats and mice to move in!

How Do Rodents Get In?

Rats and mice can crawl through very small spaces (under doors, into crevices, etc.) and when they can't fit, then they simply gnaw and chew their way through.



Common Entry-Ways for Rodents:

- ✓ gaps under doors
- ✓ pipe and wire chases
- ✓ cracks in foundations
- ✓ crawl space doors and vents
- ✓ vents or other holes without screens
- ✓ holes that have been chewed in plastic, wood, drywall
- ✓ holes that have been dug in the dirt or grass

