

HOUSEHOLD PESTS

Animals

Though not all the animals described below are rodents, most of them damage property as rodents do – by gnawing. Many are capable of causing considerable damage to the inside of a house or to outbuildings.

Of the four chief methods of control, three are appropriate to all the pests mentioned; the fourth applies only to those that enter the home:

1. Destruction of the animal itself. In most cases, poison is the most efficient means. Traps can be effective, but results are unpredictable.
2. Elimination of the shelter or nesting place. In addition, you should remove materials that could be used to construct a new shelter.
3. Cutting off food supplies. Eventually the pests will be forced to leave in search of food.
4. Seal up or screen all possible places of entry. Do not overlook the chimney, drains, and kitchen vents.

ANIMAL	CHARACTERISTICS	CONTROL MEASURES
Bat	Bats are destroyers of insects and therefore beneficial to man. However, if they find a means of entry and exit in a house, they are capable of creating extreme disorder. Bats may be rapid, and a bite from one should never be ignored. Though active at night, they may be seen indoors during the daytime, generally at rest.	Use naphthalene flakes as a repellent to keep bats from entering or to force them out. A bat that is indoors may be drawn outside by turning on a porch light or automobile headlights while keeping the house in darkness and a door, window, or other suitable exit wide open. If the bat was in the attic, the point of entry should be sealed or screened.
Chipmunk	A small reddish-brown animal with dark and light stripes on face and sides, the chipmunk prefers to live underground and hibernates during cold winters. Each pair of chipmunks produces from three to five offspring annually. A chipmunk is a rodent of the squirrel family.	Use a live animal trap baited with rolled oats, corn, or dry peanuts to catch chipmunks (sometimes called ground squirrels); release chipmunk in woods. Be sure that points of entry are closed. Chipmunks are repelled by moth balls or crystals.
Mole	The mole is a blind animal about the size of a rat; it has an excellent sense of smell. Though moles never enter a house, they can ruin a lawn or garden. They live underground and dig tunnels several inches below the surface in search of food.	Although difficult to trap, moles can be caught by the use of a special trap. A better method is to drive them away by killing off the worms they live on. This is done by poisoning the soil with a dilute solution of chlordane. Apply every two years.
Mouse	Mice are found wherever man makes his home. They usually build their nests between walls or in holes. Mice breed at any time of year, mating when the female is only 40 days old. There are from four to seven or more mice in a litter.	Mice can be controlled to some extent by the use of traps. Bait traps with oatmeal, peanut butter, bacon, or cheese. Use poison only out of reach of children or pets and use the types that kills after forcing the mouse to leave the premises to seek water.
Rabbit	Rabbits will seldom if ever enter a house, but they can cause a considerable amount of damage outside by eating vegetables and flowers. Rabbits damage and kill trees by eating the bark.	A rabbit can be driven off, shot, trapped, or poisoned. It can be discouraged by spraying an animal repellent near where the damage occurred, or caught in a live animal trap baited with carrots or apples; release rabbits in the woods. Protect trunks on your property with a fence of hardware cloth about 1-foot high.
Rat	Rats enter dwellings in search of food and water and will gnaw through wood to reach food. They also bite people. Never place poisoned bait, or dead rodents that have been poisoned, in garbage containers as that might become food for other animals	Large traps are useful, but bait them only after hands have been thoroughly washed; rats are very wary of human scents. Poisons work better. Use warfarin, ANTU (alpha-naphthylthiourea), or red aquill, all relatively harmless to humans. Close all entry points.
Squirrel	Squirrels normally live in holes in trees or in bulky leaf nests, but they will enter an attic or an unoccupied house in search of food. They are destructive and will tear draperies and furniture. A chimney is usually the point of entry, but	Bait a live animal trap with shelled walnuts, dry peanuts, or similar food; release trapped squirrels in the woods. To drive squirrels out of a house, scatter moth balls or crystals in areas they occupy. Close all points of entry after

	check other openings, as they could allow access into the house.	making sure no squirrels are still in the house.	
	Ant	Lives in colonies, can usually be found by following a single path from food supply to nest.	Form a chemical barrier across the path to the nest; use an oil-based residual spray with a minimum of 2% chlordane. Baygon, diazinon, and malathion are also effective. Apply around sinks, window sills, baseboards, and table legs. If the nest is indoors, use a residual spray; if outdoors, dust with powder containing 4% chlordane.
	Bedbug	Infests mattresses and box springs. Also lays eggs in cracks in floor, furniture, and wallpaper. Sucks human blood. Flat and brown when empty; round, bright red when full.	Use residual spray containing .2% pyrethrum or 1% malathion. Spray in all possible hiding places, especially around tufts and in crevices in mattresses. Then leave bed unmade for 2 hours. For a badly infested house, call in a professional exterminator.
	Carpet beetle Clothes moth	Both moth and beetle lay eggs and hatch larvae in rugs, furs and wool clothing which they eat. Carpet beetles are the more active.	Apply nonstaining residual spray along edges of carpets, behind radiators, and in clothes closets; remove clothing from closets so that interiors can be thoroughly sprayed. Store moth-free clothing in sealed containers with paradichlorobenzene moth crystals. Clean rugs, upholstery, and slipcovers frequently. Dispose immediately of vacuum cleaner sweepings from infested rugs, bedding, and upholstered furniture.
	Cockroach	Hides in any dark place. Brown in color, ½ to 1-inch long. Nocturnal. Hides by day. Eats glue, starch, food, garbage.	Use residual spray wherever roaches might hide. Most will develop resistance to chlordane. If insecticide used is not effective, switch to .5% oil solution or water emulsion of diazinon.
	Housefly	Breeds in food, decaying organic matter, garbage and filth. Spreads germs of many diseases harmful to man and beast.	Use screens on all windows and doors. Kill flies in house with space spray or fumes from chemically treated strips. Seal garbage in sanitary containers outdoors; spray interior of containers with residual spray. Keep yard free of garbage and manure.
	Mosquito	Grows from larvae found in stagnant water. Feeds on animal and human blood. Some types transmit disease, notably malaria.	Indoors, use space spray in a closed room; keep the room free of people and animals for half an hour. Outdoors, drain all stagnant water or cover with a thin layer of oil. To avoid bites, use insect repellent on skin.
	Silverfish	Lives in cool places. Eats starch, protein, sugar, and materials that have been sized. Active after dark.	Use residual spray containing chlordane or malathion. After spraying, dust or blow pyrethrum powder into infested places.
	Spider	Not a true insect. Except for the black widow, most found in USA are harmless, even beneficial. Spins webs in crevices and corners.	Use a space spray on those you can see. Then destroy all webs and use a residual spray in protected crevices and corners. Cleanliness and order deny them hiding places; do not store junk indoors or outdoors.