



# Commensal Rodents



Population Growth Concerns

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Dennis Health Department

# Types of Rodents

## Commensal Rodent Populations on the Cape:



House Mice



Norway Rat



Chipmunk



Squirrel

# Diseases Carried

## The Concerns.....

- Plague
- Salmonellosis
- Leptospirosis
- Hantaviruses
- Rickettsial Pox

\*\*\*For more information on the specifics on the above listed diseases please visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)\*\*\*

## How the disease spreads.....

- Breathing in dust that is contaminated with rodent urine or droppings
- Direct contact with rodents or their urine and droppings
- Bite wounds
- They also carry fleas which can spread diseases.

# Rodent Behavior

Rodents need three for populations to flourish:

1. Food
2. Water
3. Harborage



# Rodent Behavior Cont.

## 1. Food

- What They Eat.....
  - Rodents are omnivorous
  - They feed on grain, seeds, fruits, vegetables and meats
  - Rats, especially, love to hang out in sewers and around garbage
  - And the House Mouse prefers seed

# Rodent Behavior Cont.

## 2. Water & It's Sources.....



# Rodent Behavior Cont.

Where they nest.....

In walls

Chimneys

Vents

Attics

under eaves

Crawlspaces

in woodpiles

leaf piles

overgrown shrubbery

brick piles

Some species prefer to burrow under foundations, in overgrown areas, and in gardens and fields where wires or water pipes enter the structure

Rats can fit through a hole the size of a quarter

House Mice can fit through a hole the size of a dime



# Potential Solutions



**SEAL UP!**

[https://www.cdc.gov/rodents/prevent\\_infestations/seal\\_up.html](https://www.cdc.gov/rodents/prevent_infestations/seal_up.html)

**TRAP UP!**



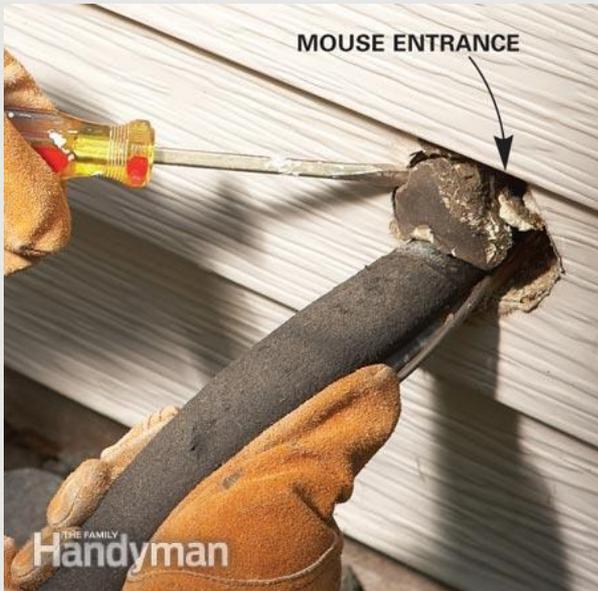
[https://www.cdc.gov/rodents/prevent\\_infestations/trap\\_up.html](https://www.cdc.gov/rodents/prevent_infestations/trap_up.html)

**CLEAN UP!**



[https://www.cdc.gov/rodents/prevent\\_infestations/clean\\_up.html](https://www.cdc.gov/rodents/prevent_infestations/clean_up.html)

# SEAL UP!



**Seal up any entry points into your home.**

**Reminder a mouse can enter through a hole the size of a dime.....**

# CLEAN UP!



<http://www.greatwestmetal.com/GreatWestMetal/Garbage%20Can.jpg>



<https://www.cdc.gov/>

## Clean up....

- Keep food cleaned up
- Keep garbage secure in rodent resistant containers
- Keep you seed and suet cleaned up
- Keep brush and over growth reduced
- Dump any standing water (this will also reduce misquotes)



<http://www.quickwasters.co.uk>

# TRAP UP!



**The best line of defense is to hire a licensed pest control specialist however, do-it-yourself traps are available for recommendations on the types of traps to use.... Visit the Center for Disease Control's webpage**

# RESOURCES

[www.cdc.gov/rodents](http://www.cdc.gov/rodents)

<https://www.doyourownpestcontrol.com/rodents.htm>

[http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/Specialized/Vector\\_Management/rodent\\_Control.pdf](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/Specialized/Vector_Management/rodent_Control.pdf)

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