### Commensal Rodents

**Rodent Identification and Control Tips**

### Advanced technology. Effective control.

### House Mouse
- **Tail:** Long
- **Body:** Small
- **Ears:** Large
- **Eyes:** Small
- **Nose:** Pointed
- **Also known as:** Black, Fruit, Ship
- **Droppings:** Pointed
- **Average length:** 1/2”

### Norway Rat
- **Tail:** Shorter than head & body
- **Body:** Heavy, thick
- **Ears:** Small
- **Eyes:** Small
- **Nose:** Blunt
- **Also known as:** Wharf, Sewer, Brown, Common
- **Droppings:** Blunt
- **Average length:** 3/4”

### Roof Rat
- **Tail:** Longer than head & body
- **Body:** Slender
- **Ears:** Large
- **Eyes:** Large
- **Nose:** Pointed
- **Also known as:** Black, Fruit, Ship
- **Droppings:** Pointed
- **Average length:** 1/4”

### RODENTS

**Family Muridae** (All data based on adult, wild rodents.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Typical Life Span</th>
<th>Typical Litters</th>
<th>Typical Weight</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Ears</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Food Preferences</th>
<th>Food Consumption Per Day</th>
<th>Waste Per Day</th>
<th>Habits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Norway Rat</strong></td>
<td>6–18 mos.</td>
<td>8–12</td>
<td>10–17 oz.</td>
<td>Heavy, broad 7”–10” long, blunt head</td>
<td>Average, close to body</td>
<td>Usually grayish brown but can vary from gray to dark brown. Belly is lighter.</td>
<td>Meats, fish, flour, fruits, vegetables.</td>
<td>1–2 feedings</td>
<td>3/4–1 oz. food 1/2–1 oz. water</td>
<td>Droppings 40–50</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6″–8.5″ long, lighter color on underside</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Eats most human foods.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Roof Rat</strong></td>
<td>18 mos.</td>
<td>6–14</td>
<td>6–12 oz.</td>
<td>Slender 6.5”–8” long, pointed muzzle</td>
<td>Large, prominent</td>
<td>Usually dark brown to nearly black. Belly is lighter and grayish.</td>
<td>Seeds, fruits, vegetables, grains, eggs, etc.</td>
<td>6–8 feedings</td>
<td>1/2–1 oz. food up to 2 oz. water</td>
<td>Droppings 40–50</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7.5”–10” long, uniform color, top &amp; bottom</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Eats most human foods.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>House Mouse</strong></td>
<td>6 mos. outdoors/ 18 mos. indoors</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1/2–1 oz.</td>
<td>Average 2.5”–3.5” long</td>
<td>Large, prominent</td>
<td>Varies from light brown to dusky gray to nearly black. Belly is lighter.</td>
<td>Meats, grains, cereals, seeds, fruits, vegetables</td>
<td>20–30 feedings</td>
<td>1/10 oz. food No water (not needed if food contains 16% moisture)</td>
<td>Droppings 50–75</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>3”–4” long</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Eats most human foods.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Commensal Rodents
Rodent Identification and Control Tips

Sanitation

• Sanitation is the cornerstone of lasting rodent control. There is no substitute for sanitation, and the program must be continuous or the benefits derived from sanitation will be quickly lost to reinvading rodents.
• Reduce harborage by eliminating weeds, refuse piles, overgrown vegetation and rubbish piles.
• Place garbage and trash in garbage cans and industrial dumpsters with tight fitting covers.
• Eliminate as much of the rodent’s water source as possible, as rats need water daily and mice will drink freestanding water if available.

Exclusion

• Since it is much easier to control rodents outside of a structure rather than within, the most successful and permanent form of rodent control is to “build them out.”
• Cracks and openings in building foundations must be sealed. Doors, windows and screens should be tight-fitting.
• Use materials that are “gnawproof” such as sheet metal, expanded metal, perforated metal, iron grills, hardware cloth and cement mortar. Materials having an opening of 1/4 inch or less will exclude both rats and mice.

Baiting

• Place baits in safe, secluded areas where rodents frequent. Proper placement of bait is extremely important as rodents tend to follow established paths from nests to food. They may not encounter bait placed too far from their path.
• Make sure you use enough rodenticide so the rodents cannot eat it all before your next service visit. Under baiting is one of the most common causes of rodent control failures.
• Use bait forms that are suited to the particular conditions. Soft baits can overcome competing food sources and they hold up well to heat; wax blocks may be the best formulation in damp areas; pellets and meal baits are well suited for rat burrow treatment.
• Store baits in areas where chemical contamination will not occur. Rodents can detect contamination and will not consume the tainted bait.
• Be sure to follow label directions and use tamper-resistant bait stations.

Non-chemical Control

• Trapping is recommended where rodenticide use is inadvisable such as places where the material can’t be adequately secured from children and non-target animals.
• There are a variety of snap traps for both rats and mice. When trapping rats, it is best to place the traps unset but baited for several days to acclimate the rats to traps. Mice are more likely to readily investigate snap traps.
• Multi-catch traps can be very effective for capturing mice if they are positioned and maintained well. All but young male rats are too large to enter multi-catch traps.
• Non-toxic baits, those without active ingredients, are excellent for rodent monitoring.