

## Did You Know?

- Rats can squeeze through holes the size of a quarter.
- Mice can fit through a gap as small as a dime.
- Rodent teeth never stop growing.
- A single rat can have about 200 babies a year.
- Mice can jump as high as 12 inches.
- Rats leave greasy marks on walls as they lean against them.



SCAN ME



For more information on rodents, please call or text (800) 442-2283.

## Rodent Control Self-Check

To keep your home, yard, and neighborhood free from rodents, conduct a self-check and follow these steps:

### 1. Ensure your buildings are rodent-proof

- [ ] Cover crawl spaces, foundation vents, and attic vents with 1/4" mesh wire.
- [ ] Seal gaps in foundations, siding, or around pipes and conduits.
- [ ] Verify all doors, including garage door, seal properly.
- [ ] Use an 18-inch metal band to prevent rodents from climbing trees, and trim the branches to stop them from jumping onto the roof.

### 2. Eliminate hiding places for rodents

- [ ] Store wood piles, lumber, and metal items at least 18 inches off the ground and away from walls.
- [ ] Clear garbage piles, weeds, or dense ground cover.
- [ ] Keep your home free from clutter.

### 3. Remove potential food sources

- [ ] Use rodent-proof containers for garbage.
- [ ] Harvest fruits and nuts promptly.
- [ ] Keep pet and bird food indoors.
- [ ] Store food items in secure containers.



Public Health  
Environmental Health Services

## Mosquito and Vector Control Program (MVCP)

# Rats and other Rodents





# General Information

Rats and mice are common pests in San Bernardino County invading homes and posing health risks. It is critical to take preventive measures, because rodents can carry diseases and damage property.



**Mice**

Mice are smaller, with shorter, furrier tails. They are curious, exploring their surroundings, and nesting close to food sources.

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**Rats**

Rats are larger, with long, hairless tails. They are cautious and often avoid traps, nesting in secure, hidden areas.

## Basic Needs for Survival

Rodents, like people, need food, water, and shelter to survive. Reducing their access to these things can help control their population without using poison or traps. Water is hard to limit, but food and shelter are easier to control. Focus on keeping food secure and removing places where they can hide.



# Where Do Rodents Nest?

Rodents can create nests in:

- Attics and garages.
- Piles of wood and lumber.
- Dense shrubs and plants.



## Recognizing Activity

The homeowner/tenant who suspects having rodents should watch out for the following:

- Droppings.
- Partially eaten fruit.
- Nesting materials.
- Wall rub marks and chewed food packaging.



## Tips for Rodents Prevention:

- Secure food sources.
- Trim vegetation.
- Maintain cleanliness.
- Keep yard clean.
- Look for rodent activity.
- Seal entry points.

## How To Clean Feces

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends airing out the area for 30 minutes before cleaning rodent droppings. Wear gloves and a mask, and spray the droppings with a disinfectant or a solution made by mixing 1 cup of bleach with 10 cups of water. Let it soak for 5 minutes, then wipe up the droppings with paper towels. Dispose of the waste in a sealed plastic bag, disinfect the area again, and wash your hands thoroughly afterward. Avoid sweeping or vacuuming to prevent stirring up harmful particles.



Renters can contact MVCP if property owners do not address a pest issue.