

# **Pest Management: SOLUTIONS FOR RATS & MICE**

Rodent prevention focuses on the removal of pests' food, water and shelter to reduce rat and mouse populations. A community effort works best, where everyone in the neighborhood follows established rodent management protocols.

## **Who is responsible?**

The property owner is responsible for controlling rodent infestations. However, tenants have an important role too. Tenants should always contact their landlord or property manager first to report rodent concerns.

## **What does the Monroe County Department of Public Health do?**

We investigate concerns related to rats and mice by assessing the property for rodent entry points and sources of food, water and shelter. We do this in order to help residents of Monroe County stay in compliance with the Sanitary Code, specifically the articles on General Sanitation and Habitable Buildings. Sometimes, we may need to enforce the code using citations or fines.

Continuous efforts by property owners and tenants are required to control sanitation by eliminating sources of food, water and shelter.



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**[monroecounty.gov/eh-rodentcontrol](http://monroecounty.gov/eh-rodentcontrol)**



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Keep trash and compost in closed rodent-proof containers. Keep property neat and clean—don't let trash pile up outside.

Remove clutter and junk piles.



Pile wood and other materials off the ground at least 18 inches.

Keep grass and weeds mowed.



Fix holes and cracks in your home's foundation.



Seal cracks and holes in and around pipes, sinks and bathroom fixtures.



Cap floor drains and sewer pipes.



Remove sources of water and fix plumbing and other water leaks.



Ensure windows and doors seal tightly. Install door sweeps on entry doors.



Clean up fallen birdseed. Keep bulk supply of seed in a covered rodent proof container. Stop feeding all wildlife if there is rodent activity.



Pick up fallen fruit from trees and maintain vegetables gardens.



Use set feeding times for pets that eat outside. Clean up leftover food. Clean up pet waste daily!



Clean up food and drink spills immediately.



Put all food in tightly sealed containers with secure lids. Don't leave open containers on counters and cabinets, or in sheds and/or garages—this includes grass seed!



Use snap traps when necessary. Place traps out of reach of children and pets.



In limited cases, a cautious use of pesticides may be required—follow the manufacturer's label or hire a professional.

