

# CLEAN UP



## Eliminate possible rodent food sources

Keep food in thick plastic or metal containers with tight lids

Keep outside cooking areas and grills clean

Always put pet food away after use and do not leave pet food or water bowls out overnight

Keep bird feeders away from the house and utilize squirrel guards to limit access to the feeder by squirrels and other rodents

Use a thick plastic or metal garbage can with a tight lid

Keep compost bins as far away from the house as possible (100 feet or more is best)

Keep grains and animal feed in thick plastic or metal containers with tight lids. In the evening, uneaten animal feed should be returned to containers with lids

If storing trash and food waste inside the home, do so in rodent-proof containers, and frequently clean the containers with soap and water. Dispose of trash and garbage on a frequent and regular basis and pick up or eliminate clutter.

## Eliminate possible nesting sites outside the home

Elevate hay, woodpiles, and garbage cans at least 1 foot off the ground

Move woodpiles far away from the house (100 feet or more is best)

Get rid of old trucks, cars, and old tires that mice and rats could use as homes

Keep grass cut short and shrubbery within 100 feet of the home well-trimmed



## THE THREE KEYS TO RAT PREVENTION

TOWN OF NORTH  
ATTLEBOROUGH  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
43 S. WASHINGTON ST, NORTH  
ATTLEBOROUGH, MA 02760  
508-699-0103  
[HTTPS://WWW.NATTLEBORO.COM/  
BOARD-OF-HEALTH](https://www.nattleboro.com/board-of-health)

# TRAP UP



Trap rodents around the home to help reduce the rodent population

Choose an appropriate snap trap. Traps for catching mice are different from those for catching rats. Carefully read the instructions before setting the trap.

When setting the trap, place a small amount of peanut butter (approximately the size of a pea) on the bait pan of the snap trap. Position the bait end of the trap next to wall so it forms a "T" with the wall. Rodents prefer to run next to walls or other objects for safety and do not like being in the open.

In attics, basements, and crawlspaces and other areas that do not have regular human traffic, set traps in any area where there is evidence of frequent rodent activity. Some rodents, particularly rats, are very cautious and several days may pass before they approach the traps. Other rodents, such as house mice and deer mice, are less cautious and may be trapped more quickly.

We do not recommend using glue traps or live traps. These traps can scare the mice that are caught live and cause them to urinate. Since their urine contains germs, this may increase your risk of being exposed to diseases.

Also place traps in outbuildings and in the areas that likely serve as rodent shelters. Natural rodent predators, such as non-poisonous snakes, owls, and hawks, may also help control and reduce the number of rodents outside the home.

If you trap inside your home, but do not seal up rodent entry holes, new rodents will enter the dwelling.



Chicken Coops may attract rodents, they must be cleaned daily. Rats are attracted to their feed and fecal matter.

# SEAL UP



Seal up holes inside and outside the home to prevent entry by rodents.

Mice can squeeze through a hole the size of a nickel, and rats can squeeze through a hole the size of a half dollar!

Prevent rodents from entering the home by checking inside and outside the house for gaps or holes.

