

## Cleaning Up After Rodents

Take precautions before and during clean up of rodent-infested areas.

Before starting clean up of the space, ventilate the space by opening the doors and windows for at least 30 minutes to allow fresh air to enter the area.

When you begin cleaning, it is important that you **do not** stir up dust by sweeping or vacuuming up droppings, urine, or nesting materials.

- Wear rubber gloves when cleaning urine and droppings.
- Spray the urine and droppings with a disinfectant
- Use a paper towel to pick up the urine and droppings, and dispose of the waste in the garbage.

After the rodent droppings and urine have been removed, disinfect items that might have been contaminated by rodents or their urine and droppings.

- Mop floors and clean countertops with disinfectant
- Steam clean or shampoo upholstered furniture and carpets
- Wash any bedding and clothing if exposed to rodent urine or droppings.

Lastly, remove gloves, and thoroughly wash hands with soap and water.

## Questions?

Contact the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department



St. Lawrence County  
Public Health Department

Sanitarian Program  
80 State Highway 310, Suite 2  
Canton, NY 13617  
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## Rodent Prevention & Removal



St. Lawrence County  
Public Health Department

**SANITARIAN  
PROGRAM**





## Public Health Concern: Diseases

Worldwide, rats and mice spread over 35 diseases. These diseases can be spread to humans directly, through handling of rodents, through contact with rodent feces, urine, or saliva, or through rodent bites. Diseases carried by rodents can also be spread to humans indirectly, through ticks, mites or fleas that have fed on an infected rodent.

### Diseases Transmitted by Rodents:

Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome  
Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome  
Lassa Fever  
Leptospirosis  
Lymphocytic Chorio-meningitis (LCM)  
Omsk Hemorrhagic Fever  
Plague  
Rat-Bite Fever  
Salmonellosis  
South American Arenaviruses  
Tularemia

### 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.

#### Where to look for holes:

- Inside, under, and behind cabinets and appliances
- Around doors.
- Around pipes
- Around floor vents
- Between the floor and wall junctures

### Trap Up!

Trap rodents around the home to help reduce the rodent population



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 the 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 out in the open.

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

### Clean Up!

Clean up rodent food sources and nesting sites



#### Eliminate possible rodent food sources:

- Keep food in sturdy containers with tight lids.
- Clean up spilled food right away and wash dishes soon after use.
- Keep outside cooking areas and grills clean.
- Always put pet food away after use.
- Use a sturdy garbage can with a tight lid.
- Dispose of garbage on a regular basis, and pick up or eliminate clutter.

This CDC offers helpful suggestions on rodent control during and after a rodent infestation. The primary strategy for preventing human exposure to rodent diseases is effective rodent control in and around the home. This is achieved by eliminating any food sources, sealing even the smallest entries into homes, and successfully trapping rodents in and around the home: <https://www.cdc.gov/rodents/>

