



Guaranteed Pest Solutions

**330-542-1130**

Common Name	Scientific Name
House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>

## House Mouse

The most commonly encountered and economically important rodents, house mice are not only a nuisance (by damaging materials through gnawing and by eating and contaminating stored food); they are also of human health importance as disease carriers or vectors.

Active year round, the house mouse is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most successful breeding mammal on Earth. A family of 6 mice can become 50-60 in 90 days.

### Identification

Adult mice have a head and body length of 2 ½ – 3 ½ inches and a uniformly dark, scaly, semi-naked tail 2 ¾ - 4 inches long. Fur is smooth and usually dusty or dark gray or light brown above and light gray or cream on the belly. Eyes are small and the nose or muzzle is pointed. Ears are large.

### Signs of Infestations

1. Visual Sightings – Mice are inquisitive. Territory size varies but it is usually relatively small. If food and shelter are plentiful, they may not travel more than 4-5 feet from their nests. They will explore anything new or changed, and establish new travel routes if needed. There are 2 main feeding periods, at dusk and just before dawn, with many other “mini” feeding times in between.
2. Droppings / urine – Adult droppings are about ¼ inch long and are rod-shaped, lack ridges and have pointed ends. A house mouse infestation makes 50 to 75 droppings per day. Over a 6 month period, a pair of mice will produce about 18,000 droppings, and void about ¾ pint (12 oz.) of urine. Droppings may be found along runways, in feeding areas, and near shelter. Urine stains may occur along travel ways or in feeding areas.
3. Odors – A characteristic musky odor is a possible indication that house mice are present.
4. Sounds – Sounds such as gnawing, climbing in walls, running across the upper surface of ceilings, and squeaks are common where mice are present.
5. Gnaw marks – Gnawings may be visible on doors, ledges, in corners, in wall material, on wiring, stored materials, or on other surfaces wherever mice are present. State Farm

- reports that 25% of all fires are caused by rodents gnawing on wiring. New gnawings or holes tend to be rough whereas, old gnawings are smooth from wear.
6. Tracks / footprints – Front foot print is in front of hind print. Fresh tracks are clear and sharp whereas, old tracks are at least partially obscured by dust.
  7. Rub marks – Smudge marks may occur on beams, rafters, pipes, walls, and other parts of the structure. They are the result of oil and dirt rubbing off mice's fur along frequently traveled routes.
  8. Burrows/nests – Preferred nesting sites are dark, secluded places where there is abundant nesting material nearby and little chance of disturbance. Nests are frequently found when cleaning garages, basements, closets, attics, and outbuildings where mice are present. They consist of fine, shredded fibrous materials such as paper products, cotton, packing materials, wall/attic insulation, fabrics, etc.
  9. Runways – Paths are usually along walls, stacked merchandise, interior objects, etc. Active runways are free of dust and cobwebs with fresh droppings. Tracks may or may not be visible.
  10. Damaged Goods – Mice are nibblers and eat only small amounts of food at any one time or place. Although mice will eat many kinds of food, seeds or cereals are usually preferred. Required moisture is normally obtained from their food but they will take free water when available.

## **Vectors of Disease**

The most common way mice transmit disease organisms is by contaminating food with their droppings and/or urine. Salmonella, a cause of food poisoning, and tapeworms are spread via droppings, infectious jaundice/leptospirosis/Weil's Disease is spread through mouse urine in food or water, and other diseases are spread via fleas and mites that parasitize the mice.

## **Control**

Our rodent control program is a monthly service throughout the year. The service aims to:

1. Eliminate rodents from within the structure (corrective action) through the use of mechanical traps, proper sanitation, and exclusion.
2. Knock down the outdoor rodent population (corrective) through the installation and service of exterior perimeter, locked, tamper resistant, secured rodent bait stations. The stations are placed in inconspicuous locations every 20 to 50 feet typically along the exterior walls where rodents forage or could gain access to the structure. The baits within the stations are secured and cannot be removed or accessed by non target animals.
3. Maintain the rodent population as low as possible throughout the year (preventive). The fresh bait around the building is the only alternative to what is inside. The service schedule ensures the continuity of the baits within the stations.
4. Prevent rodents from proliferating close to the structure (proactive maintenance) through the maintenance of the bait stations and by proper sanitation & harborage reduction.

Please call or email to protect your home, health, and happiness against mice.

Thank you.