

Trapping Commensal Rodents

Pest

Characteristics

Droppings

Trapping Tips



Norway Rat

Tail: Shorter than head and body
Ears: Small
Eyes: Small
Nose: Blunt
Weight: 7-18 oz.



Shape: Blunt
Avg. length: 3/4"

Place traps close to walls, behind objects, and in dark corners.



Roof Rat

Tail: Longer than head and body
Ears: Large
Eyes: Large
Nose: Pointed
Weight: 5-10 oz.



Shape: Pointed
Avg. length: 1/2"

Place traps off the ground on ledges, shelves, branches, pipes, in attics, or garage rafters.



House Mouse

Body Shape: Round
Head size: Small
Feet: Small
Snout: Pointed
Weight: 0.5 oz.



Shape: Pointed
Avg. length: 1/4"

Place traps close to walls, behind objects, or in areas where there is evidence of mouse activity.

** Young rats, which are sometimes mistaken for mice, have larger heads and feet relative to their body*

Pre-Baiting Traps

Rats tend to avoid new objects in their environment. Pre-baiting traps increases the effectiveness of trapping by combating this behavior. Pre-baiting traps is the process of placing a baited trap without setting it. Repeat this process a few times until the rodent becomes familiar with the trap. Then set the trap.

Possible baits include: Chocolate syrup, dried food, nutmeats, or bacon.

Placing Traps Out of Reach

To prevent children and pets from gaining access, place traps in tamper-resistant bait boxes. The U.S. EPA has criteria listed for tamper-resistant bait boxes that can be found on Pesticide Registration {PR} Notice 94-7.

IPM Tips!

- Seal gaps that are 1/4" wide or larger to exclude rodents from indoor areas.
- Set traps in pairs parallel to the wall when possible to increase chances of trapping.