

8 Steps to Prepare For Rodent Control Service

Preparation Steps

You can help us rid your home of a mouse or rat problem by doing the following things prior to service:

1. Make sure that all food that is not in a can or jar is stored in the refrigerator or heavy plastic container for at least two weeks following service. This includes chips, candies, nuts, cereals, breads, any grain-based food, pet foods, etc., that are normally stored in upper or lower cabinets, on counter tops, or on top of the refrigerator. Although usually bagged, rodents can chew right through plastic bags to get to foods.
2. Homeowners should repair any holes in walls, around baseboards, or doors that don't seal properly; apartment residents should report these to management for repair. (Mice can enter through gaps as small as 1/4 inch and rats through holes as small as 1/2 inch in diameter.)
3. Remove all items from the top of the refrigerator and from directly underneath the kitchen sink to allow access to these areas.
4. When your technician arrives, discuss the situation with him or her, making note of areas where mice or signs of mice have been seen.
5. The technician may be setting and placing any of a variety of baits and traps. These should not be touched or disturbed during or after the service.
6. For ongoing control, clean, sweep and vacuum the home regularly. Take out trash on a regular basis, keep lids on trash cans, and keep area as clean as possible.
7. Eliminate any unnecessary storage including boxes, paper, and clothing as rodents (and other pests) will take shelter here, gnaw the items to make their nests, and even breed in such undisturbed areas.
8. For long-term prevention against infestation of rats, mice and other pests, follow the guidelines and practical tips listed in 10 Tips to Keep Pests Out.

In order to achieve control, the mice (or rats) need to be attracted to the rodent bait and traps that the service provider uses. When you follow the steps listed above, the PCO can more effectively rid your home of the problem, and it is more likely that you will be able to maintain a rodent-free home.

