



Roof Rat (*Rattus rattus*)

- Are very abundant in many urbanized and suburban areas of Santa Barbara County.
- Can squeeze through a gap as small as 1/2 inch or a hole roughly the size of a quarter.
- Are excellent climbers and can jump at least 18 inches.
- Forage daily in a territory 100 to 300 feet across.
- Leave droppings the size of raisins with tapered ends; usually dark colored.

Photograph courtesy of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.



House Mouse (*Mus musculus*)

- Can squeeze through a gap as small as 1/4 inch or a hole the size of a dime.
- Are poor climbers.
- Foraging area may be as small as 10 feet in diameter.
- Leave droppings that are the size and shape of rice grains; usually dark colored.
- The very similar Deer Mice (*Peromyscus* sp.), the vectors of Hantavirus, are rarely found in urbanized settings.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS BROCHURE?

This brochure describes the basics of rodent control for a business situation. By contacting the agencies below, your business can have:

- A rodent inspection of the business free of charge.
- Specific control recommendations including rodent-proofing and sanitation measures that will make your business less attractive to rodents.
- Free brochures and information on rodent control, rodent-proofing, rodent-borne diseases, as well as other vectors and vector-borne diseases.

LOOK FOR THESE SIGNS OF RODENT ACTIVITY

- Presence of droppings.
- Greasy smudges or “rub marks” along the base of walls, around rodent entry holes, and on beams and rafters.
- Gnaw marks on doors, walls, furniture, water hoses, electrical wires, food containers, etc.

For More Information Call:

CITY of SANTA BARBARA VECTOR CONTROL

OFFICE: 616 Laguna Street ♦ MAIL: P.O. Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA 93102

TELEPHONE: (805) 564-5596

E-MAIL: Raparicio@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

MOSQUITO and VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT of Santa Barbara County

OFFICE: 2450 Lillie Ave. ♦ MAIL: P.O. Box 1389
Summerland, CA 93067

TELEPHONE: (805) 969-5050
E-MAIL: mvmddistrict@mvmddistrict.org

Visit our Public Information Website:
www.mvmddistrict.org

RODENT CONTROL IN THE BUSINESS DISTRICT



A successful rodent control program requires active and consistent participation by all members of the business community.



**City of Santa Barbara
and
Mosquito and Vector
Management District
of Santa Barbara County**

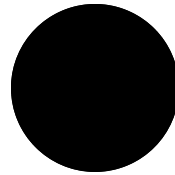
GENERAL INFORMATION

Roof Rats and House Mice live in close association with humans worldwide. They multiply rapidly when humans provide them with the 3 key conditions they need:

- Harborage
- Food
- Water

Rodents cause enormous economic loss and also have the potential to carry and spread diseases including Bubonic Plague, Murine Typhus, Rat-bite Fever, Hantavirus, Listeriosis, and Salmonella. They can be responsible for the following:

- Consume food meant for human consumption.
- Contaminate stored food and the interior of buildings with urine and feces.
- Damage structures, furniture, water hoses, electrical wires, vehicles, etc. by gnawing.
- Carry fleas and mites that can vector disease and cause irritation to humans.
- Unnerve humans with their presence.
- Every year many people suffer rodent bites that cause injury, illness, infection, and occasionally even death.



Actual size hole a rat can enter.



Actual size hole a mouse can enter.



SANITATION AND RODENT-PROOFING ARE THE KEYS TO RODENT CONTROL

- Employees should be educated to place all refuse into trash bins or cans and to close the lids tightly.
- A sufficient number of refuse containers should be available to hold all refuse. Lids should be tight-fitting. Steel cans are preferable as rodents can gnaw through thin plastic.
- Sweeping floors regularly removes rodent food and allows for detection of recent rodent activity.
- Entry points to the interior of buildings should be properly and permanently sealed with concrete, plaster, sheet metal, or 1/4 inch mesh hardware cloth. Steel or bronze wool can be used to temporarily plug entry points.
- Exterior entry/exit doors with gaps of 1/4 inch or greater underneath should be fitted with a sweep or threshold.
- Outdoor vegetation should be kept trimmed. Tree branches should be pruned to at least 18 inches from roof lines whenever possible.

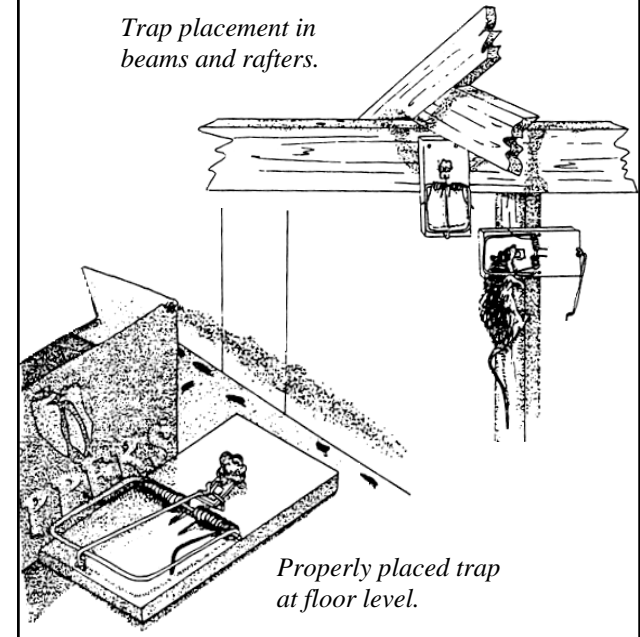
BAITING AND TRAPPING ALONE WILL NOT CONTROL A RODENT PROBLEM.

SANITATION AND RODENT-PROOFING MUST ALSO BE PRACTICED.

- Rodents can be trapped indoors with snap traps or glue tray traps. Traps may be baited with peanut butter, nuts, or bits of fruit.
- Leaving traps baited but unset for 3-4 days will get rodents accustomed to taking the bait. After 3-4 days the traps can be set.
- Wire or nail traps in place.
- Baiting for rodents is best done outdoors after buildings are rodent-proofed. Baiting indoors or with rodent entry into buildings can result in rodents dying in inaccessible areas, causing odor or fly breeding problems.
- Rodent bait should always be placed inside of tamper-resistant or tamper-proof bait stations.

Proper Rodent Trap Placement

Trap placement in beams and rafters.



Properly placed trap at floor level.