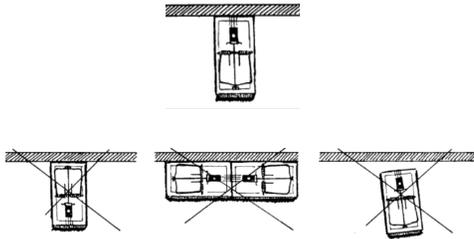


Mice Control

Trapping is the best control method in homes where signs of mice are identified. Poison methods are not recommended. Snap traps are inexpensive and come in two sizes. The larger size is for rats and the smaller size is for mice.

Food such as peanut butter, nuts, bacon, oatmeal, apple pieces, and soft candy (like chocolate), make great baits for rodents.

Traps should be placed indoors, close to walls or runways, extending from the wall at right angles with the trigger end of trap facing the wall. It is important to set several traps. Mice will not go to a trap that has been in place for several days, so it may have to be moved a few inches if nothing is caught after a few days.



How can Vector Control help?

Trained technicians are available to conduct a home inspection at no cost and provide advice on appropriate baiting and trapping methods, locate possible entry points, and provide guidance on repairs. To schedule an inspection, please call the District office at (408) 918-4770, or submit a service request online at SCCVector.org

Need help identifying if those are rodent rub marks, feces, or gnaw marks? Photos can be emailed to vectorinfo@cep.sccgov.org for identification.



Fruit on the ground can attract mice, rats, and large wildlife such as raccoons, skunks, and coyotes. Clean up fallen fruit on a routinely basis.



House Mouse



Resources

California Department of Public Health
(916) 558-1784
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
(800) 232-4636
<https://www.cdc.gov/>
<https://www.cdc.gov/rodents/cleaning/>

Environmental Protection Agency
(415) 947-8000
<https://www.epa.gov/>

Vector Control District County of Santa Clara

1580 Berger Drive
San Jose, CA 95112
M-F 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Office: (408) 918-4770
Fax: (408) 298-6356

vectorinfo@cep.sccgov.org
www.sccvector.org



www.sccvector.org

(408) 918-4770



About the House Mouse

- The house mouse (*Mus musculus*) is a small rodent with relatively large ears, small black eyes, and a slender body that is between 2 1/2 to 3 3/4 inches long.
- Their tail is as long as their body and head combined.
- Mice have poor vision but a keen sense of smell, taste, hearing, and touch.
- They can easily climb and fit through openings as small as a dime.
- Mice normally limit their range within 30 feet from their nest, and mostly enter homes in autumn.

Signs of Mice Activity

- Gnaw marks or teeth marks on plastic, paper, wood, cardboard, aluminum, wires, drywall, and insulation.
- Small pointed droppings and urine stains.
- Small nests made out of paper or cardboard.
- Greasy rub marks on wooden or painted surfaces.
- Sounds of gnawing, clawing, climbing, squeaking, or running in walls and attic area.
- Tracks on dusty surfaces or in mud.

Stop the Invasion

- Cover attic ventilators and louvers (window blinds/shutters), tops of air shafts, vent pipes, and other openings.
- Don't leave pet food/water outside and clean up bird feeders.
- Block entrances to your home by replacing missing or broken vent screens and keeping sheds closed.
- Seal holes or gaps between roof tiles and around pipe entrances with metal, concrete, or **1/4 inch galvanized hardware cloth**.
- Keep garbage cans tightly covered and thin out overgrown vegetation.

Diseases

- Leptospirosis: spreads through water and food contaminated with infected rodent urine.
- Salmonellosis: transmitted when rodents contaminate foods.
- Dermatitis: caused by mite bites.

House Mouse Habitat & Food

- Can be found inside warehouses/storage areas, between walls, cabinets, under furniture, and in electrical boxes.
- Mice prefer cereal grains but feed on many edible materials like pet food, bird seeds, fruits, and vegetables.

Yard Maintenance

- Keep sheds and storage areas tightly closed and neat.
- Store firewood 18 inches off of the ground and 12 inches away from walls.
- Fix leaky spigots and broken irrigation to eliminate water sources.