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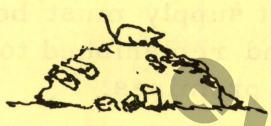
United States Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife
Lafayette, Indiana

controlling Rats & Mice

Prepared by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Agricultural Experiment Station Building, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, in cooperation with State Agricultural, Conservation, and Health Agencies.

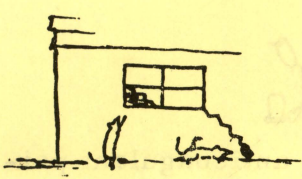
TIPS FOR THE HOMEMAKER

WHERE RATS AND MICE COME FROM



Barns, sheds, straw and wood piles, trash piles, fencerows, etc.

HOW DO RATS AND MICE GET INTO THE HOME?



Through open or un-screened doors, windows, ventilators and spaces around coal chutes.

Under shallow foundations of the house.

Through cracks and breaks in the foundation.

Through holes around electrical inlets or pipes that enter the foundation.

Through holes in the floor around piping (water, etc.).

May be carried in with potatoes, carrots, etc.

HOW TO KEEP RATS AND MICE OUT OF THE HOME



Close necessary openings, such as windows, doors and ventilators with 1/4-inch wire mesh (hardware cloth). Keep doors closed when not in use. Use a good spring to make sure door closes and a spring lock to make sure it stays closed.

Close unnecessary openings with concrete or sheet metal. Fit pieces of sheet metal around pipes to make a collar through which rodents cannot gnaw.

Make sure that sacks of garden produce do not sit out in the garage overnight before they are brought into the cellar. A curious mouse may get in. Examine food before bringing it into the house or basement for storage.

HOW TO DISCOURAGE RATS AND MICE FROM LIVING ON THE PREMISES Inside the Home

Concrete basement floors and solid walls.

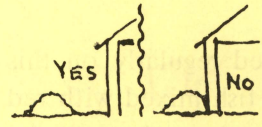


Store materials in the basement on stands about 10 to 12 inches above the floor.

Do not allow litter to accumulate on the floor behind sink, stove or cabinets. Set them flush against the wall or far enough away so that the space can be easily cleaned.

Outside the Home

Do not pile coal, wood, etc. near or against walls.



Steps leading into the house should be concrete or masonry. If wood, the space beneath should be open and kept clean.

Keep stored materials (boxes, lumber, pipe, etc.) up off the ground. Have a space of 12 to 18 inches beneath.

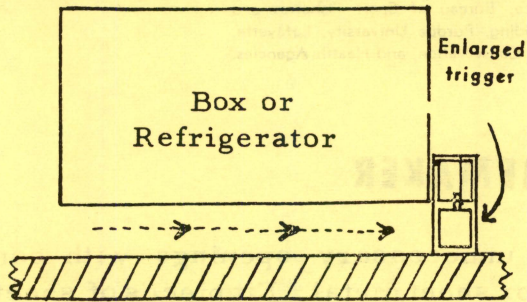


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HOW TO KILL RATS AND MICE

Traps (wooden-base snap traps)



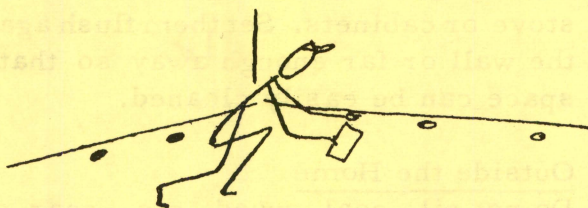
Rats - Enlarge the trigger with wire screening or cardboard and place trap behind boxes along walls so that rats must pass over trigger. Use several traps. Have 10 or 12 on hand.

Mice - Tie bacon, raisin, cotton, or a gumdrop on trigger or smear trigger with peanut butter. Use several traps.

Poisons

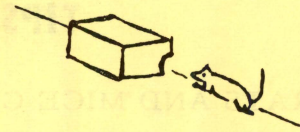
Don't use poisons inside the house unless rats or mice are very numerous. In baiting outside, don't miss the wood piles, straw piles, trash piles, fencerows, etc. To poison rats, use one of the following:

RED SQUILL: First put out table scraps for 3 to 5 days where the rats are feeding.



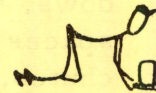
When they have begun to feed regularly on this bait, put out ground meat or fish mixed with red squill poison. Follow the directions given on the label as to mixing. Use fresh foods for both prebait and poisoned bait. Though not classed as a poison to humans or domestic animals, put it out so that only rats can get to it. Feed pets well for several days so that they will not be tempted to take the bait.

WARFARIN, PIVAL, FUMARIN, DIPHACINONE, or PMP: Anticoagulant poisons are mixed with cereals (freshly-ground corn meal is good) as the bait must remain in place for several weeks without spoiling. Put out under bait boxes or other cover. No prebaiting is

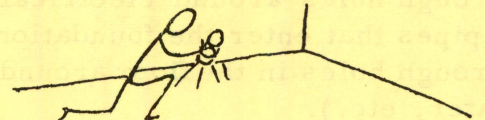


necessary, but the bait supply must be continually checked and replenished to kill all the rats on the premises.

Water-soluble anticoagulant poisons can be exposed in chick fountains, under boxes. Poisoned water gives best results in dry weather.



To poison mice, use anticoagulant poisons as described above, but with smaller and more closely-spaced placements. Red squill is not effective for mice. For



basements and outbuildings, dust 50% wettable DDT powder along walls and spots where mouse signs are seen. Mice are killed by getting DDT on their feet and skin, in walking through the powder. Keep DDT away from food.

Miscellaneous

Cats are good mousers, but not good ratters. Small dogs are good ratters.



Calcium cyanide gas can be used safely for outdoor burrows, but should be used only by qualified persons.