

Safe Yard Product Buying Guide

Pest Solution Fact Sheet

Mice



Mice eat and contaminate your food, damage property and household items, and carry diseases. Mice can harbor ticks that may carry pathogens causing tick borne diseases, like Lyme Disease. Mice can aggravate allergies and asthma, and can even cause fires by chewing the plastic insulation off electrical wires in your walls or attic. It is important to keep mice out of and away from your home.

How do you know whether you have a mouse problem? You may see a mouse, smell them, or hear them chewing and scampering at night in walls and ceilings. Look for droppings, signs of gnawing, and the nests mice make from shredded paper, cloth, or insulation.

The following products can help control mice without risking the health of your family, pets, or the environment.

Product/type	How to use
<i>Mechanical</i>	
Traps - Snap	Using bait boxes, place one or two traps every 15-20 feet, along a known mouse trail.
Traps - Electrocutation	More humane than snap traps, they electrocute the mouse, then the power shuts off until reset. The traps cannot get wet, so must be used indoors or under cover in rainy weather. Place along a mouse run, and bait with cat or dog food.
Traps - Live	If you are concerned about killing non-target animals, a live trap would be the best trap. Set up is same as above.
Ultrasonic Repellent	These products emit ultra high frequency sounds, beyond cats and dog's hearing. It takes a few days for the mice to leave. Best in enclosed spaces like a garage or shed.
<i>Chemical</i>	
Repellents	Repellent sprays containing essential oils and other nontoxic ingredients can repel mice from nesting in closets, and other enclosed spaces.
Corn Gluten Meal; RatX	RatX ingredients are corn gluten meal, corn cobs, maltodextrin, sorbitol, wheat flour, and wheat germ oil. It kills rodents only. No secondary kill, and is nontoxic to dogs and cats.

As with all pesticides, protect people, pets, and the environment by following all instructions and cautions on labels.



Grow Smart, Grow Safe®

Learn about the hazards associated with specific pesticide products at GrowSmartGrowSafe.org.

Disclaimer: List does not include all products carried by store. Product ratings are based on Grow Smart, Grow Safe®. Responsibility for misrepresentation of any product as a result of customization will rest solely with the creator of the altered content. See www.growsmartgrowsafe.org for disclaimer and copyright information.

Try These Products

- Victor PestChaser Pro ultrasound repellent
- Critter Out spray repellent
- Victor Electronic Mouse Trap
- Havahart live trap 1020 size
- Tomcat Press N Set Mouse Trap

Tips for pesticide application

Many pesticides pose a risk to people, pets, and the environment. Use the following guidelines to minimize these risks.

- Always follow instructions carefully.
- Use bait boxes to prevent non-target wildlife, pets and children from being trapped or zapped.
- If your pets seem bothered by the ultrasonic repellent, use another method.

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**Pest control that's safer
for your kids, pets, and
the environment!**



Mice

Preventing Mice—your best defense!

<p>Remove Food Sources</p>	<p>Keep anything vaguely edible in a rodent-proof container of metal, glass, or heavy plastic with tight fitting lid: compost, bone meal, organic fertilizers, bird, dog, and cat food. Remove and clean pet dishes after they have eaten. Do not leave pet food outside, especially overnight. Pick up fallen fruit. Make bird feeders inaccessible to rodents. Raise tomatoes and other fruiting plants off the ground. Line compost bins with 1/4", 16-20 gauge, galvanized hardware cloth. Or use rodent proof composting systems like metal trash cans with small ventilation holes.</p>
<p>Seal Entrances and Remove Easy Access</p>	<p>A full-grown mouse can enter your house through a hole the size of a dime. They are talented climbers and able to swim. Look for openings where mice may be getting inside buildings: where pipes go through a wall, foundations, roof lines, etc. Stuff openings with copper scouring pads or other non-rusting metal before sealing with expanding foam, so they can't chew their way back in. Cover floor drains with tight-fitting metal grate covers.</p>
<p>Remove Nesting Habitat</p>	<p>Raise woodpiles at least 12 inches from the ground (and pet cages, if mice find them interesting), and wrap the legs in galvanized sheet metal to prevent the mice from climbing them.</p> <p>Cut tall grass, weeds, and brush from around the foundation and dispose of the clippings.</p> <p>Discard or recycle unused clutter around the house that may be providing a home for mice.</p>



How pesticides work

RatX: RatX works by coating the rodent's digestive system, preventing it from feeling thirst. This leads to dehydration, kidney damage, blood thickening, coma, and ultimately death, after several days. It has this effect on rodents only, so other animals feeding on them will not be affected, nor is the product toxic to non-rodents which might eat it. Other food sources must be removed for it to work well, as it is not an especially attractive food source.

Other Pesticides

Other pesticide ingredients that are commonly used to control mice include bromadiolone, bromethalin, and diphacinone. These rodenticide ingredients can pose a significant threat to people, pets, wildlife, and the environment. Understand the risks by visiting Grow Smart, Grow Safe®: www.GrowSmartGrowSafe.org

What to consider when using pesticides

Pesticides other than Rat X can also harm animals that prey on mice.

Be sure to choose a pest control product for mice that will not cause harm to people, pets, or other wildlife.

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www.gardengreen.org

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