

Mice Advice from Onsite

Mice can be an irritating issue and we certainly understand that frustration! Unfortunately, this is a part of life that we all have to deal with from time to time. Often changes in weather or nearby construction causes these critters to move and seek new places to build their homes, which occasionally lands them in your home.

Here is some research that our team has done with a few ideas to help mitigate the problem.

First, a solid cleaning helps establish a good base for deterring mice/rats. When you do clean up, start with a disinfected surface; it is generally recommended to use a diluted bleach solution to erase scent trails left by the mice. Following your cleanup, here are some options for you. To us, it seems that a combination of these things would work best. Also seal trash with lid (tie it down if need be), and be sure to keep your pet's food and water out of reach when it is not in use (especially at night).

1) Plug up any holes you find around the house with steel wool.

2) There are ultrasonic mouse deterrents available at most hardware stores. These are not harmful to pets. About 2-3 of these in the rooms around the house may help with the issue. We have heard of many people having great success with these at their house.

3) Peppermint essential oil: this can be purchased at King Soopers, Sprouts, Natural Grocers, and Whole Foods (Aura Cacia is a reliable brand for this type of use). Put about 20-30 drops on a cotton ball and leave cotton ball anywhere that you've seen droppings. This would be best to do inside of cabinets, along baseboards, under furniture, in closets, etc. Just about any place you can think of to leave one. We also recommend wiping down the baseboards around the unit with it. The cotton balls would need to be replaced about every other day. A regular once-over with the oils every day for a couple of weeks is recommended. For these types of things to be effective, diligence is key. Be sure to use gloves because essential oils are potent and can absorb through your skin.

4) Clove essential oil: same concept as the peppermint. We saw peppermint show up much more frequently, but it seems that combining oils works well for a more powerful effect.

5) Dryer sheets: apparently mice/rats hate these. Place dryer sheets anywhere you've seen evidence of mice. Be sure to weigh them down and replace them regularly (suggested about every 3 weeks to a month). Weighing them down keeps mice from taking them (old ones) for nesting material in case you forget to replace them - same with the cotton balls.

6) Aluminum foil: also deters mice/rats. Place aluminum foil over any surface that you've seen evidence of trails. It's recommended that this is done at night because they are nocturnal and replaced every day. If a brave one does walk along it, there will be a scent trail left behind. Many sources recommend storing any type of food in air-tight plastic container - especially pet food (dog food is a huge source for attracting mice/rats).

7) PETA recommends a mixture of horseradish, garlic and lots of cayenne pepper in salad oil (we assume this means olive oil or something like it). Let the mixture sit for a few days (about a week), then strain it and put the liquid in a spray bottle to use as a deterrent.

8) Pet-safe mouse/rat deterrents: there are a number of mouse deterrent brands sold at multiple stores (Home Depot, garden centers, etc.). Some brands include Fresh Cab Rodent Repellent ([See what it looks like here](#)), Pest Repellents ([See what it looks like here](#)), Shake Away Rodent Repellent Granules ([See what it looks like here](#)).

Hopefully some of these steps can help! If taking these steps doesn't help with the issue, please reach out to let us know and we will look into the next best steps.