

## Step Three - Eliminate Mice & Rats

**Mouse Traps:** The safest traps for catching mice in the home are snap traps that are set by squeezing the back. This avoids snapping fingers while setting and releasing. Snap traps kill the mouse humanely and prevent you from having to touch the mouse.

- The snapping side of the trap should be set toward the wall and baited with peanut butter. Mice tend to run along the wall so this increases your chances of catching them.
- Set mouse traps in those areas where most of the mice droppings are found - but keep traps well-hidden and out of reach of children.
- Wear gloves to dispose of a mouse in a trap. Place the dead mouse in a bag and throw away, then clean the area with a household disinfectant.
- Use glue boards with caution. They are non-toxic but do not kill the mouse right away. You may be bitten and the mouse can suffer in the trap.
- **Baits:** If you use mouse and rat baits, keep in mind they are pesticides and must be used according to label directions. Avoid using a product without an EPA label or directions on the package. It is probably illegal and more dangerous to children and pets.
- Avoid pelleted rodent baits in residential settings due to the risks of poisoning children and pets. Rodent baits used indoors leads to rodents dying behind walls or other enclosed areas, which can stink and attract other pests.
- If you must use a bait, make sure it is the solid block-type with a hole drilled through so it can be tied down. All baits should *preferably* be secured in tamper-resistant bait boxes.
- **Avoid foggers and sprays.** They are designed for insects and do not affect rodents.

## NEED MORE HELP?

- **PA IPM Program Problem Solver**  
<http://paipm.cas.psu.edu/1445.htm>
- **New York State IPM Program**  
<http://nysipm.cornell.edu/publications/evictmice/default.asp>

## CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE:

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### *The Pennsylvania IPM Program*

The Pennsylvania IPM program is a collaboration between the Pennsylvania State University and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture aimed at promoting integrated pest management in both agricultural and urban settings. For more information, contact the program at (814) 865-2839, or Web site <http://www.paipm.org>.

# Is There a Mouse in the House?



**A safe, effective, economical and environmentally-friendly approach to managing pests**

# Eliminate Mice with IPM



## WHAT IS IPM?

Integrated Pest Management is a way of controlling pests, like rats and mice, by combining the tactics that are most effective, including prevention and alternatives to pesticides. Pesticides, if used, should be the least hazardous and target only the pest.

## WHY USE IPM TO CONTROL MICE & RATS?

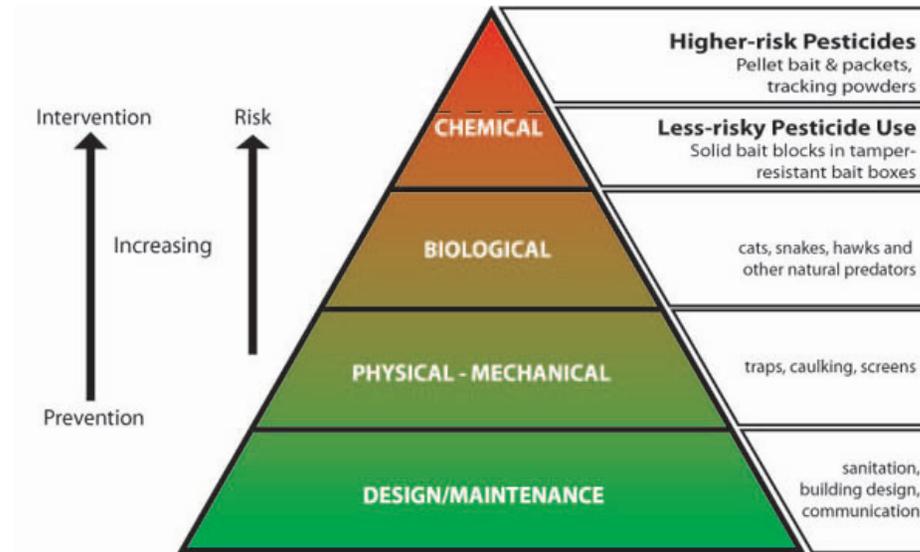
- More likely to give long term control
- Less hazardous to human health
- Less risk to non-target organisms
- More cost-effective
- More site-appropriate

## STEPS TO MANAGING RODENTS

### Step One - Eliminate Pest Highways

Find out what kind of pest you have to make sure it is a mouse or a rat and determine where it is coming from. Mice that infest houses are typically five to eight inches long, including a long, hairless tail. They have large ears and their droppings are pointed, about the size of a grain of rice. Rats are much larger, thirteen to eighteen inches in length, including a short tail. Their droppings are blunt, about the size of a raisin.

- Look for holes in walls that are ringed with a dirty, oily rubbing. Any hole you can stick a pencil in is an entry way for a mouse!
- Look outside the house to determine how they may have gotten in.



## Pyramid of IPM Tactics for Mice

The pyramid of tactics explains some of the different methods used in IPM practices. Think of each level as a drawer full of tools. Design/maintenance methods are lower in risk and focus on prevention of the problem. Try to use tactics on the lowest levels if possible.

- If possible, seal off/plug outdoor holes with rodent-proof materials (copper mesh, hardware cloth).
- Install door sweeps under doors - many mice come in the same way you do – through the doorway!

### Step Two - Eliminate Mice & Rat's Needs

All pests look for food, water and shelter. Removing access to these items is the most important step in IPM and prevention!

- Clean up food scraps and store foods appropriately to prevent easy access to food. All pet foods should be stored off the floor and in sealed, hard containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Fix leaking pipes.
- Keep living areas clean and uncluttered.
- Keep yards and vacant lots maintained by mowing and utilizing regular trash pickup.
- Share information with neighbors. Pests like rats and mice do not stay in one place.