

Why exclusion instead of other methods?



The answer is simple.

Many rodent pest control products cause intense and prolonged suffering because they try to fix the problem AFTER it has already occurred. Exclusion techniques, part of the approach known as Integrated Pest Management, focus on using knowledge of pest biology and least-disruptive control tactics to remove pest problems before they occur.

It is fortunate that these techniques, the most effective methods of pest control, are also the most humane.

In this pamphlet, you will find tips for identifying pest problems and understanding how to prevent them in the first place.

**HUMANE
PEST CONTROL**

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Exclusion Techniques

How to solve pest problems
humanely and effectively



RODENT PHYSIOLOGY

Understanding the physiology of pest animals is key to keeping them out of places where they are not wanted.

Rats are capable of:

- Squeezing through .5 in cracks
- Climbing up pipes of almost any diameter
- Swimming 0.5 mile
- Jumping 3 ft high and 4 ft horizontally
- Having 20+ offspring per year



Image source: Huffington Post

Mice are capable of:

- Squeezing through 0.25 in cracks
- Crawling along screen wire upside-down
- Jumping 1.5 ft
- Having 25+ offspring per year



Image source: Lexi Walker

Monitoring

Here are ways to keep an eye out so you can quickly become aware if any creatures are getting in.

1. General Signs

- Droppings or urine streaks
- Gnawed objects or foundations
- Runways (paths of packed dirt) with rubmarks (grease stains from contact with the rodent's body) outside home
- Scratching, gnawing, fighting, or squeaking sounds at night
- Burrows or dig marks

2. Tracking Rodent Activity

Once you know that a rodent has entered your home, it is crucial to identify its entry and exit points.

- Video recording devices, whether webcams or professional security cameras triggered by motion sensors, can be helpful in observing entry and exit.
- Another innovative possibility is the use of fluorescent tracking powders (e.g., RodoTrak, sold in the U.S., and LumiDust in the U.K.). This can be placed together with non-toxic food bait in a container where rodents will get the powder on their feet and fur. Subsequently, an ultraviolet (UV) flashlight will display the animals' tracks once they've shed powder along their routes.



Image source: California Polytechnic Institute

Rodent-Proofing

Rodent-proofing your home comes in three flavors: interior work, exterior work, and living management.

1. Interior Work

- Seal holes near cabinets, closets, sinks, windows, doors, or pipes (temporary fixes use plugs of wadded steel wool, copper gauze, or screen wire; long-term fixes can combine patching plaster and sheet metal)
- Fix leaky pipes
- Ensure screens are tight-fitting

2. Exterior Work

- Search for entry points around the foundation of the home. Seal with mortar or cement.
- Cover all pipe openings with wire mesh.
- Place firewood far from buildings to remove shelter opportunities.
- Ensure there is at least a 2 ft margin between home and shrubs/tree branches.

3. Living Management

Living management means maintaining your living space so that mice and rats stay out.

- Keep garbage in bins with tight lids
- Put food in sealed containers
- Do not leave pet food/water out overnight
- Remove extra paper/fabric (can become nesting materials)
- Clean kitchens and stovetops of food scraps



Image source: Berrett Pest Control