

What to Do about Mice

Dr. Mohammed El Damir, Adam's Pest Control, Inc



Mice are more likely to be noticed inside a structure in winter, especially with fewer food resources outdoors. The infestation level of mice can change overnight. Counting only on a “cookie cutter” approach to rodent control devices or equipment is not quite sufficient to provide an adequate rodent control inspection. Adam’s Pest Control searches and identifies high activity areas of rodents in and outside the buildings. In these areas, they placed more rodent control devices and kept monitoring.

Mice are more likely to be noticed inside a structure in winter, especially with fewer food resources outdoors. The infestation level of mice can change overnight. It only takes a few weeks for a single intruder pregnant female to turn the location into a big mess. The presence of clutter, makes it easers for mice to hide and is also a great obstacle for managing them in timely manner. Consequently, clients may lose trust in the professional pest management team performing sanitation cleaning and lean towards canceling the service.



Counting only on a “cookie cutter” approach to rodent control devices or equipment is not quite sufficient to provide an adequate rodent control inspection. We search and identify high activity areas of rodents in and outside the buildings (i.e., near warm locations, in undisturbed clutter, corner areas, neglected stored boxes, within suspended ceilings near food, holes along the foundation wall of a building or next to a fence area, etc). In these areas, we placed more rodent control devices (i.e., Ketch-All Multiple Catch Mousetrap, Pro-Ketch, glue boards, etc.) and kept monitoring. Due to the food preferences of mice, especially where more attractive food materials are available, we have found success in baiting snap traps with various baits in the beginning of the mass-trapping program. For a best result, install traps in pairs. Place each pair about an inch apart and each set about 6 ft apart. Setting mousetraps up against walls, along the perimeter, behind objects, and in areas where there are mouse droppings, gnawing, damage, or other signs evident. Snap traps should be oriented perpendicular to the wall, with the trigger end against the vertical surface. In tight spaces such as behind a refrigerator, two traps should be set side-to-side parallel to the wall. Mousetraps can also be mounted to pipes and beams that mice use as runways. In high traffic and dusty areas, place mousetraps inside protective bait stations, this would be especially true if you are using glue boards. When no mice were being captured for a period of time, we stopped trapping for a few days, then moved traps several feet and started again.

If mice are getting in areas visible to public, such as cashier stations in a grocery store or a salad bar in a restaurant, you may consider using a contact rodent repellent as a barrier in these particular areas (i.e., DeTour). Note that this kind of products will not harm the mice. It simply irritates them and causes the “unhappy” mice to look for the exits. This may drive them into other locations where you need to carefully identify and apply your rodent control tactics. In these areas, you may use low profile traps, such as Snap-E® Cover and Rentokil® “Trap-Ease” as well.

Pest –proofing is the key to effective, long-term mice control to help your clients achieve safe and mice free environments. At least annually, draw a floor plan and mark locations for repairs or pest proofing.

Finally, remember that each rodent control job could be different. Keep monitoring and always be prepared; look for rodent signs using the three-dimensional inspection strategy and know your pest habits.

FPA is an organization of regional companies formally organized to provide Pest Management / Food Safety / Fumigation / Alternative services and products throughout North America.

1-877-FPA(372)-3334.