

# Rentokil

The Experts in Pest Control

## Tips for the prevention of mice

Mice can wreak havoc in a facility in many ways. From destroying property, equipment, and food to spreading disease and bacteria, these pests are unwelcome guests at any time. Their droppings and urine harbor bacteria and viruses, as well. The presence of mice can be a major risk to your brand reputation – nothing makes a guest or customer high-tail it out of a facility faster than seeing a rodent!

### Where you might see them

- Mice prefer quiet, undisturbed areas, such as closets, storage areas, wall voids and sheds.
- Mice often travel the same paths and pick natural trails to follow, such as girders, heating and electrical lines and utility runs.

### Tips for prevention

- To keep mice from entering, install door sweeps on all exterior doors that do not seal flush with the floor, including doors to mechanical or storage rooms.
- Seal all holes and openings on the exterior and in food areas. Because mice can chew through many common proofing materials, use materials such as hardware cloth, aluminum flashing, aluminum screening, or concrete. Look for gaps and holes around pipes; doors and windows; and wiring, plumbing, and electrical entries/exits in floors, walls, and ceilings.
- Place 1/4-inch wire mesh screens over all exterior ventilation openings.
- Inspect roof areas for gaps and openings around vents, HVAC, and other mechanical units. Seal these gaps with the materials listed above.
- In storage areas, the lowest shelf should be at least six inches off the ground to eliminate hiding areas, improve inspections, and reveal evidence of mouse activity.
- In offices, designate a food area and discourage employees from keeping food at desks unless it is in a sturdy food storage container.
- Clean food serving, prep and storage areas regularly and frequently to eliminate food sources for mice.
- Limit vegetation around buildings, especially low, dense shrubs, tall grasses, and seed or fruit producing plants that can serve as nesting or food sources for mice.
- Move debris, firewood, and unused equipment away from your facility.
- In storage areas, remove clutter, such as old boxes and equipment.
- Keep outdoor garbage bins and dumpsters tightly covered and some distance from the building. Use closed receptacles indoors.
- Remove standing water. Repair dripping faucets or leaks, both inside and out.



### Identification and biology

- Light brown to dark gray in color, with a lighter underbelly, the house mouse is the most common structure-infesting mouse. This mouse is 5 to 8 inches in length and has a tail about the same length as its head and body.
- The deer mouse is a field mouse that enters from outdoors. It gets its name from its coloring, which is similar to that of a deer – a tan upper body with a white underbelly. It is approximately 2 to 4 inches long, its tail is about the same length as its head and body, and its hind legs are more prominent than its fore legs.
- The white-footed mouse is also a field mouse that may sometimes enter structures. It has a dusky brown upper body with a white belly and feet. It can grow to 7 inches in length, but its tail is significantly shorter than its body.
- Mice are exceptional climbers, runners, and jumpers and move easily through most facilities.
- Mice can survive on just 0.1 ounce of food per day. While they do not need to drink water, they will if it is available.

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