Rodent Proofing For Fall

By DoMyOwn staff

OVERVIEW



It's fall and cooler temperatures are settling in. That means mice and rats are heading indoors. As rodents look for winter harborage, human dwellings and buildings start to feel the pressure of encroaching rodents. Our Rat Prevention Guide and Mouse Prevention Guide include our best recommended methods for keeping rodent pests out of your home this fall.

Agile and adaptable, rodents enter buildings any way that they can. They squeeze through spaces as big as their heads: mice need only 1/4", young rats, 1/2". Anywhere a pencil fits through, a mouse can too.

RODENT ENTRANCEWAYS

Rodents can enter dwellings in multiple ways. They arrive via ventilation grills, sidewalk gratings and large sidewalk cracks. They gnaw through wooden doors and crawl into spaces where pipes meet wood siding. They scale vertical wires, pipes and tree limbs. Rats burrow under foundations of buildings lacking basements. Rodents also get into hollow walls between floors and floor sills. They can also hide in pallets and rush in through open doors. They easily come inside through defective drain pipes, travelling inside the pipe or burrowing alongside it.

EXCLUSION MATERIALS

Use of a series of materials will help you keep rodents out of buildings:

1. Galvanized, stainless or other non-rusting metals: a) sheet metal, 24 gauge or higher; b) expanded metal, 28 gauge or higher; c) copper mesh; and d) hardware cloth, 19 gauge or higher with 1/4" or less mesh.
2. Cement mortar: 1 part cement, 3 parts sand mix or richer.
3. Concrete: 1 part cement, 2 parts gravel, 4 parts sand mix or richer. Adding broken glass to mortar or cement will deter rodents from burrowing through it as it dries.



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STUF-FIT Copper Mesh

$28.80

★★★★★ (98)

EXAMPLES OF RODENT PROOFING

Creative use of materials combined with knowledge of rodent behavior will help you exclude rodents from buildings. Here are a few ways to use the materials for rodent proofing. Patch holes around plumbing with concrete or mortar. Cover a drain, vent or chimney with 1/4" hardware cloth. Along the bottom of a door, use sheet metal flashing. Place a metal, circular rat guard on a drain to prevent rats from wedging themselves between the building and the pipe to crawl upwards.

RODENT RE-ENTRANCE
Keep an eye out for new holes and tunnels into buildings a week or two after the building has been sealed up. Efforts by rats and mice to return to old feeding grounds will be strongest then. If there are rats or mice present in your home or office already, consult our Rat Treatment & Control Guide and our Mice Treatment & Control Guide for advice from our pros on getting your home pest free as soon as possible.



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Rodent Baiting Kit
$150.00
★★★★☆ (25)

Some material taken from University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Science and "Rats and Mice," Bobby Corrigan, Handbook of Pest Control