Cleaning after mice or rats have invaded your space -

How to clean up a dead mouse or rat in a snap trap and how to clean up a rodent nest:

- Wear rubber or plastic gloves.
- Spray the dead mouse, rat, or nest, as well as the surrounding area, with a disinfectant or a mixture of bleach and water. Let it soak.
- Place nesting materials or trap with the dead rodent in a plastic bag. If you plan to reuse the trap, get the mouse or rat out of the trap by holding it over the bag and lifting the metal bar. Let the mouse or rat drop in the bag. Disinfect the trap.
- Seal the bag. Place the full bag in a second plastic bag. Seal that bag.
- Throw the bag into a covered trash can that is regularly emptied or contact your state health department for information on other ways to throw away dead mice and rats.
- Wash gloved hands with soap and water or spray a disinfectant or bleach solution on gloves before taking them off.
- Wash hands with soap and warm water after removing your gloves.

Nesting Materials:
Some materials mice and rats use to build their nests include paper, tissues, insulation, and the stuffing from furniture.

Clean-up tip:
Do not sweep or vacuum up mouse or rat urine, droppings, or nests. This will cause virus particles to go into the air, where they can be breathed in.
How to clean out cabins, sheds, barns, or other outbuildings:

- Open all doors and windows. Leave them open for 30 minutes before cleaning.
- Wear rubber or plastic gloves.
- Clean up all rodent urine, droppings, nests, or dead mice or rats by using a disinfectant or a mixture of bleach and water.
- Mop floors or spray dirt floors with a disinfectant or mixture of bleach and water.

- Clean countertops, cabinets, and drawers with a disinfectant or a mixture of bleach and water.
- Steam clean, shampoo, or spray upholstered furniture with a detergent, disinfectant, or a mixture of bleach and water.

- Wash any bedding and clothing with laundry detergent in hot water if you see any mouse or rat urine or droppings on them.
How to seal gaps and holes inside and outside your house:

- Fill small holes with steel wool. Put caulk around steel wool to keep it in place.

- Use lath screen or lath metal, cement, hardware cloth, or metal sheeting to fix large holes. Lath screen can be folded and pushed into holes. It can also be cut to fit around pipes. This material can be found in the masonry or building materials section at a hardware store.

Seal holes with caulk

Fold lath metal and place in holes in the foundation of houses

Use lath metal around pipes
What you can do outside your home:

- Use a thick plastic or metal garbage can with a tight lid. Make sure there are no holes in the garbage can.
- Clean up trash, brush, and weeds around your home.
- Check the outside of your house for gaps and holes. Seal them with cement, lath metal, hardware cloth or sheet metal.
- Put away pet food after use.
- Keep grains and animal feed in thick plastic or metal containers with tight lids.

- Get rid of old trucks, cars, and old tires. Mice and rats may use these as homes.
- Keep grass and shrubbery within 100 feet of the home well trimmed.
- Move woodpiles 100 feet or more from the house. Raise the wood at least 1 foot off of the ground.
- Use traps in areas outside your home where you think mice and rats live.

- Fix gaps in trailer skirtings.
- Keep composting bins 100 feet or more from the house.
How to use poison baits:

Poison baits can be useful if you have a serious mouse or rat problem. Make sure to carefully read the instructions on the bait package you buy.

- Place bait trays or bait station in or near places where you have seen mice or rats, droppings, or nesting materials.
- Place baits out of reach from children and pets.
- Check bait every week and re-fill or move it as needed for at least 15 days. Leave the bait out longer if you still have mice and rats.

Place bait where you have seen mice or rats

Important trapping and bait reminders:

- Keep traps and bait out of reach from children and pets.
- If you live in the western United States, you may be at risk for plague carried by fleas from rodents. Use insect repellant (containing DEET) on clothing, shoes, and hands to reduce the risk of flea-bites while picking up dead rodents. Contact your local or state health department to find out if plague is a danger in your area and for more information on flea-control methods.

**For more information about hantavirus pulmonary syndrome or rodent control, call your local or state health department, or CDC at 1-877-232-3322 or visit the CDC web page at: [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hanta/hps/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hanta/hps/index.htm)**