



Guidance for people living outdoors or homeless

Rats and mice are common in King County. They can spread diseases such as rat bite fever and hantavirus. People can get sick from handling rats/mice, contact with their feces, urine or saliva, or from bites. You are more likely to come into contact with them when living in cars, RV's and outdoors. These important tips will help you stay safe and healthy.

PREVENT RAT AND MICE INFESTATIONS



- **Keep rats/mice away** by removing any food that could attract them, including pet food, food waste, and garbage.
- **Do not feed wild rats/mice.**
- **Do not eat food if you think rats/mice have had contact with it**, such as if you see feces, urine, or chew marks. Throw it out.
- **Store all human and pet food inside in chew-proof containers** with a tight-fitting lid, if possible.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE RATS OR MICE IN YOUR LIVING SPACE

If you see rats/mice or signs of them (feces, chew marks, bedding, a dead rat/mouse) near your living or sleeping space:

SECURE YOUR SLEEPING SPACE



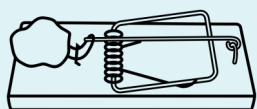
- Keep any doors or tents closed.
- Try to pitch tents or place sleeping bags away from rodent burrows.
- If possible, do not sleep on the bare ground. Use a tent with a floor, tarp, or pallet.

For RV's and vehicles:



Regularly check for signs of rats/mice. Open the hood and trunk and allow them to air out for 20 minutes before you inspect your vehicle. Look inside the vehicle, in the engine compartment, in the trunk, and in the air intake system.

SET TRAPS



If rodents have entered your living space, use a wooden "snap trap." Do not use glue traps or live traps because rats/mice in glue or live traps may urinate or bite.

[OVER FOR CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS]

CLEAN UP

Take precautions when cleaning rat/mice infested areas:



- Air out the space by opening the doors/windows/tent openings for at least 30 minutes before cleaning. This reduces your risk of breathing in germs from dried urine or droppings.
- Never touch a rat or mouse with your bare hands
- Never sweep, vacuum or stir up dry dust in places where rats/mice have been. This prevents breathing in germs.

How to safely clean up feces, urine, bedding, and dead rodents:



- Put on disposable gloves or work gloves, if possible.
- Spray a disinfectant (one that says it kills germs on the label). If you don't have a disinfectant, use soap and water.
- Let the disinfectant (or soap and water) sit for 5 minutes.
- Wipe up with a paper towel or rag.
- Put any rodents and all waste in a bag, then throw it away in the garbage.
- Clean inside areas with disinfectant (or use soap and water and rinse well).
- Remove the gloves and wash your hands with soap and warm water. If soap and water are unavailable, use hand sanitizer.

WHEN TO GET MEDICAL CARE



If you have been bitten by a rat/mouse, see a healthcare provider. If you have had other contact with a rat/mouse or an infested area and develop any illness, see a healthcare provider. Tell them about your possible rat/mouse exposure.

For more information: www.kingcounty.gov/rats

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