

Rodent-proofing guide & checklist

The simplest way to avoid the use of harmful rodent control methods is to rodent-proof your home. You can break the cycle of temporary fixes and returning unwelcomed guests!



STEP ONE – REMOVE ATTRACTANTS

Outside

- Remove items stacked next to building exteriors
- Trim and remove plants next to buildings to eliminate hiding spots
- In yards, laneways, carports and balconies, secure garbage and compost
- Keep pet food indoors
- Pick up fallen fruit or spilled birdseed

Inside

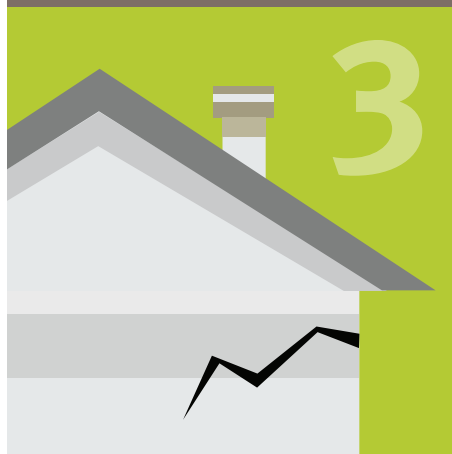
- Store food inside glass, metal or plastic containers, secure drawers or cupboards, or in the fridge
- Put away pet food after meals
- Store food waste in secure bins or in the freezer until time for green waste pick up

STEP TWO – LOCATE ENTRY POINTS



- Examine exterior or balcony for potential gaps
- Pull large appliances, boxes and furniture away from the wall, and open cupboards
- Examine where pipes and wires come through drywall
- Look for unusual gaps or holes, rodent droppings and signs of gnawed wood, wire or insulation

STEP THREE – EXCLUDE AND REPAIR



- Use exclusion materials like heavy gauge wire screening, metal mesh, expanding foam sealant and vent covers
- Seal all interior/exterior gaps or holes bigger than the size of a dime in walls, foundations, sheds, crawl spaces and under porches
- If needed, install door sweeps to doors with gaps under them
- Hire an AnimalKind accredited rodent-proofing professional if work is extensive

STEP FOUR – MAINTAIN, MAINTAIN, MAINTAIN!



- Make a note in your calendar to check for signs of rodent activity and make repairs twice per year

Questions to ask a pest control company before hiring

Any company can call themselves “humane” – but that doesn’t mean they use animal-friendly methods. If you can’t hire an AnimalKind company recommended by the BC SPCA, check that your company uses animal-friendly rodent control methods by asking these questions:

RODENT CONTROL



- Will you identify attractants and advise me on prevention steps?
- Will you examine the exterior and interior of my home to identify where rodents are entering?
- Do you use wire screening and rodent-proof sealants to seal up entry holes?
- Which non-poison control methods will you use?
- How do you decide when to use rodenticides? Do you minimize the amount of rodenticide used and collect unused bait?

BIRDS AND OTHER WILDLIFE CONTROL



- Will you identify how animals are using my property, (i.e. den or nest location), and where they are gaining entry?
- Do you know the animals’ breeding season and age when babies become mobile and are safe to move?
- Do you use exclusion methods that allow animals to leave and not return, such as one-way doors?
- If separated, will you reunite baby raccoons, squirrels, skunks and birds with their mothers?
- When you need to physically capture an animal (i.e. remove from a building) will you release it within that individual’s home range near the capture site?



Avoid companies that answer “Yes” to these questions:

- Do you use glue traps for rodent control?
- Do you trap-and-release wildlife outside of that individual’s own home range?
- Is rodenticide poison your first option for rodent control?



The company you hire should tell you:

- All the lethal methods that will be used
- What’s inside any rodent boxes placed on your property (rodenticides should only be used as a last resort for infestations when all other methods have been tried)
- How often they will check on live animal traps – ideally they will respond whenever you see animals in the traps, but at a minimum, every 24 hours

Animal-friendly pest control is effective and it is available if you ask for it!

www.animalkind.ca



AnimalKind
BCSPCA Accredited