

Recommendations for Cleaning Areas Contaminated by Rodent Droppings



It is important to clean up rodent droppings carefully. Rodents can be carriers of diseases and breathing in dust or contact with their droppings can cause infection.

One of the most serious diseases found in mice is Hantavirus. This virus is commonly found in deer mice in Manitoba. Though Hantavirus is rare, it can cause illness and can lead to death.

What do Rodent Droppings Look Like?

Mouse droppings are small with pointed ends. They resemble the shape and size of a grain of rice. Fresh droppings are black in colour; however, if they are old, the droppings will have a lighter brown colour.

Rat droppings are larger than mouse droppings. Rat droppings range in size from 1.25 cm (half an inch) to 2.54 cm (1 inch). They are cylindrical, sausage-shaped, and sometimes have a slight curve.



Image source, Pest Wiki, <https://www.pestwiki.com/rats-mice-difference/>

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Cleaning up Rodent Droppings

- Rubber or disposable gloves
- Protective face mask
- Protective eye goggles

Always wear PPE while cleaning, and never sweep or vacuum dry droppings.

How to Dispose of Dead Rodents and Droppings

Step 1:

Put on PPE.

Step 2:

Spray urine, droppings, or dead rodent(s) and surrounding areas with disinfectant or bleach solution (1 part bleach to 9 parts water) until very wet. **Let it soak for 5 minutes.** It is important to saturate the droppings to prevent dust containing droppings from becoming airborne.

Step 3:

Wipe up the droppings and cleaning product using paper towels. Throw out the paper towels in a covered garbage can.

Step 4:

Place dead rodents in a plastic bag. Tie the ends of the bag together in a knot to seal the bag. Throw the bag into a covered garbage can.

Step 5:

Mop or sponge the area with a sanitizer or disinfectant.

Step 6:

Wash rubber gloved hands with soap and water or a disinfectant before removing them or carefully remove disposable gloves and throw them out in a covered garbage can.

Step 7:

Wash hands with soap and warm water.

For more information email the [Food Safety and Inspection Branch](#).