

# How to Get Rid of RATS

*A Detailed Guide To Rat &  
Mouse Control*

*Recommendations of scientists  
17 methods*

*TOP-23 best traps, poisons, and repellents*

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save the world from pests.**



# Why Will This Book Help You Get Rid Of Rats & Mice Forever?

Whether you live in an urban area or in a rural settlement, rats and mice are among your primary enemies. Not only are these rodents nuisance pests, they cause damage to human property, crops, spoil food supplies, and, most importantly, carry diseases. Remember that these are rats that heavily contributed to the spread of the Black Death in the Middle Ages.

Rats not just bite but are able to gnaw to death a baby, as it was the case in Mexico in 2016, or may disfigure a face if their victim is helpless like a disabled French teenager mutilated by these rodents in her bad in 2017. Who is to blame? It is the fault of people who do not care enough to eradicate rats and mice in their houses believing the problem is just the matter of unsanitary conditions. Without a crackdown on rodents, no half-measures will be successful.

All solutions featured in this guide are recommended by American scientists to force rats and mice out of the house. In this book, you will learn about the behavior of rats and mice as well as in what way they differ. We have provided an in-depth study of the effectiveness of available methods to combat these rodents. You will also find a review of rat & mouse control products popular with consumers.

There is a number of traps, repellents, and poisons available on the market. But which ones do really work against mice and rats? What are their advantages and downsides?

Over 70 pages of a detailed analysis and step-by-step instructions will help you obtain the desired results in an effort to keep these critters away. You will also find some homemade recipes in case you cannot afford extra spending. For gardeners and supporters of eco-friendly solutions, there is a review of how to get rid of rodents naturally. A thorough and descriptive comparison table of the suggested solutions will help you properly determine a rat control strategy.

At the end of this guide, you will find a comparative chart of **TOP-23** Amazon products described in the book. These are **poison baits** with various active ingredients such as diphacinone, bromadiolone, diphacinone, and brodifacoum, which also include a blend of ingredients highly attractive to mice. There are different **electronic traps**, as well as traps killing by suffocation or humane solutions without a lethal outcome. A list of repellents includes the chemicals based on ingredients like **denatonium benzoate**, **ammonia**, and **mothballs** with a modern formulation, as well as **natural solutions** based on essential oils. **Ultrasonic repellents** for rats and mice are also included in the review. Apart from that, there is a number of products **eliminating the smell** of dead rodents.

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# How Is A Mouse's Behavior Different From That Of A Rat?

It would be wrong to suggest that the management of mice and rats requires a similar approach. Despite being close relatives and having a lookalike appearance, they behave in a different way and this should be taken into account depending on what the target is — mice or rats.

So, what are the main distinctive features of the two species?

- **A mouse is smaller than a rat** and can cause more damage. You might be surprised to learn that it is the size which makes the mouse, not the rat, the most dangerous pest for homeowners. Because mice are so small, they can enter buildings much more easily than rats. According to a study conducted by the University of California, *“As a result, house mouse infestations are probably 10 to 20 times more common than rat infestations”*. A mouse can sneak through a gap as small as  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches in width. It is also easier for a mouse to hide indoors.



Therefore, sealing entry points in the house, such as cracks as well as openings for water pipes and vents, is a **priority task in mouse control**. The task is demanding since it is not easy and sometimes impracticable to find all small gaps in the building.

- **Mice are very quick**, with the velocity reaching 13 km per hour! That's why they'll feel fine in an apartment. Mice are excellent climbers and can run up any rough vertical surface. They can run horizontally along wire cables or ropes and jump up to 12 inches from the floor onto a flat surface.
- **Mice don't travel far from their nest and use the same path** on the way back. This is the reason to place traps close to walls and other mouse shelters. Try to monitor a mouse route, discover their trails because this is the first step in trapping them.

However, **this is not the case for rats** since they can travel great distances. The Department of Public Health in Los-Angeles has specified that *“each night, rats can travel from 100 to 300 feet from the nest in search of food. House mice can search for food and nesting materials in an area as small as 10 feet from the nest”*.

- **Mice and rats are natural enemies**. When it comes to food and territory, they can't coexist. Rats usually scare out smaller house mice. John W. Hermanson, an associate professor at Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine in Ithaca, N.Y. notes that rats prefer household garbage and ferociously protect their trophy from mice. That is why it is highly unlikely that both of these rodent species might infest the same house.
- **Mice have keen senses of taste, hearing, smell, and touch**. So don't forget to wear gloves when setting traps.



## How To Identify: A Rat Or A Mouse?



- ❑ Entry holes left in the walls or floors by mice are smaller in diameter than those of rats (1½ inches in diameter for mice, 2 inches or larger for rats). Brown rats are large and normally gather in trash cans, hang around the house, settle in the kitchen, basement or in the car. The smaller ones, black rats, can be seen running under the ceiling, in the attic, on the roof. They are encountered less often but cause the tangible damage to wires and TV antennae, as well as to crops in the garden.
- ❑ Mice and rats leave droppings along their runways, in feeding areas, and near the shelter. Mouse droppings are usually about ¼ inch long, whereas those of rats typically are ¾ inch long.

# What are peculiarities of rodent control in urban and rural areas?

Habitat always matters. This is what you should keep in mind when developing a strategy for eradication of rats and mice. **Urban rats are highly adapted to coexisting with human populations which makes them smarter in avoiding people's tricks.** Therefore, a more complex approach is required for eliminating rodents in town residences. The most common urban species are Norway and black rats that are known for being carriers of several pathogens transmissible to humans.

**In rural areas, it is not just humans and their pets, but also the livestock's safety and health that can be threatened by rats and mice.** Whereas in town residences you just need to remove garbage, clean up the house and seal gaps in the walls in order to block access to food, this is not the case with farms.



There, you have to feed your livestock and keep the food in great quantities in the barn. Your guard dog feeds outside the house and everything uneaten is actually left for rats. Not to mention plants

and fruits adorable by rodents. Apart from the food abundance, rodents get a variety of shelters throughout the farm, say, hay bales where rats and mice are hard to be detected. This is why a proper rodent management in rural areas must include **repellents** designed to protect crops from these critters. Such solutions can also be used to create a barrier around food storages.

Another specific circumstance relates to an issue of the **unsafe use of poison baits**. In rural areas, poisons must not be placed without bait stations which should have narrow openings designed for rats and mice only. In such a way, you will protect pets, livestock, and children. And yet, in case a farmer has a hen house or a big barn, otherwise speaking, large areas, **nothing but poisons will help against rodents** since repellents do not have a powerful impact, especially in winter. You may try electronic traps but these devices kill rats one by one but what if there is a horde of rats?

Rural areas have their strong points. These are **natural predators**, primarily birds and cats. Attract owls to your farm or a detached house by establishing nesting boxes which can be obtained in wildlife control centers or be handmade. Cats do not always do their job, however, this problem mostly relates to domesticated cats living in town residences. Cats living outside the house have more developed hunting habits, therefore, are better at catching rats and mice.

One more advantage of rural settlements is that you are most likely will not need to bother about the **disposal of dead rodents**. It is natural predators that will do the job for you. In urban buildings, conversely, the smell of rodent's rotting corpse is such a pressing problem that we have devoted a separate section to how to get rid of it.



Nowadays, **ultrasonic repellents** are becoming increasingly popular with consumers but the feedback on the products' effectiveness varies. This is mostly due to the fact that the device's impact on critters largely depends on the environment. In urban areas, one may expect poorer results achieved when using all kind of sonic repellents. The thing is that noises made by human activities, transport, and other typical urban facilities affect the animals living in the area, altering their natural behaviors. Such phenomenon is called the noise pollution of an environment, with its impact well described on the website of the Australian Academy of Science.

So, we may assume that the effect of ultrasonic devices is poorer in the areas with the high level of noise pollution as there are other noises, often much more powerful. At the same time, ultrasonic repellents should show better results in rural areas located far from hustle and bustle of towns.

# What Methods Of Eradicating Rats And Mice Are Recommended By Scientists?

Let's have a look at what steps should be taken to get rid of these rodents. Bear in mind that the most effective approach implies a combination of several methods. Scientists suggest the following measures for rat & mice control:

## 1. Exclusion

This primarily concerns mice. Carefully check the eaves, soffits, porches, chimney for gaps and crevices. Mark them. The most common entry points are under doors and through the holes in walls and floors intended for passage of electrical, water and sewer lines as well as vents. Correct the defects in the building by sealing them.

## 2. Sanitation

It is fundamental to rat control and should be carried out on a regular basis to prevent them from returning. Pipes, lumber, boxes, gardening equipment, and other household items should be stored off the ground. Remember, they may provide shelter for rats. Regularly collect garbage and garden debris which are their source of food. Pet's meal bowls should not be available to rodents either.



### 3. Slowly but steadily poison rats with baits

However, you may face a problem if they die in the house. The dead are likely to become a source of infection or foul smell.

Poisoning is one of the most effective ways to control pests. Rodent poison baits cause bleeding in the body, make kidneys and other organs dysfunction that results in the death.

Rats and mice should get **an unlimited access to the poison** as not all of them will be killed after the first ingestion. Usually baits have a cumulative effect and kill the rodents within a few days. Remember that rodents don't die far from their habitat! That's why, when fighting them indoors, inspect the rooms daily in search of dead bodies and dispose of them as soon as possible.

While practically all existing devices and chemicals against rats can be used outdoors, you have to be very careful with them in the house. For this reason, you should opt for the safest poisons.

## 4. Trap rodents

You have a number of options: snap rat trap, live catch rat trap, and glue rat trap.

**Snap rat trap** is an old school and simple solution. Place a lure on the trigger, bring the hammer back and secure it with the hold bar. As soon as a rodent has touched the lure, the trigger is activated and the hammer is released killing the captive instantly.



**Live Catch rat trap** captures rats and keeps them trapped until you release them. It is a humane way because the animal is not killed and can be released into the wild, preferably from 200 to 300 feet away from your home.

**Glue rat traps** are inferior to the previous solutions since they make the critter suffer and cause a psychological pain to the household residents. You will have to hear them dying slowly from dehydration and pain. Also, such devices do not work against large rats which can easily make free itself. A clear advantage of this option is a very low price amounting to ~\$3.

## 5. Electrocute rats and mice

Resort to this last-ditch measure once you are desperate to solve the problem. Using electronic traps has a number of advantages: you do not need to wear gloves to handle the device; electronic traps provide an immediate and 100% proven result. Nowadays, modern electronic rat traps are becoming increasingly popular among homeowners as they are considered more humane than the old devices.



When a rodent gets inside the electronic mouse killer, it touches an electrified metal plate and gets electrocuted. As a rule, these devices have an indicator showing whether it is empty or someone is inside.

It is highly unlikely that any rodent will enter the electronic device willingly. That is why some food bait is needed. Use the rodents' taste preferences as a guide: they can range from dog food to gum and bacon. Through trial and error in the choice of bait you are sure to find the best solution.

There are fewer electronic mouse traps than the rat ones. However, the former are typically more accessible and compact and, therefore, can be placed anywhere.



## **6. Use electronic repellents to keep rodents away from the house**

Electronic repellents affect rodents by ultrasound which cannot be heard by humans, but makes rats panic and drives them away from the area. These devices are quite effective if you are looking for an alternative to killing rats with traps and poisons. In addition, they are environmentally friendly and non-toxic, compared to the other methods. The main drawback is that scientists have not yet proven electronic repellents to be really effective.

Ultrasound repellents differ depending on the way they are powered: through an outlet, with regular batteries or sun batteries. The latter type usually does not work against rats. The other two types of ultrasound repellents are designed primarily for indoor use, where their effect is maximized. Nevertheless, they can be somehow useful against rats in the backyard, given that the batteries are regularly changed and the device itself is protected from rains.

## 7. Repel rodents using chemicals like mothballs and thiram

A large number of commercially available products contain the active ingredient thiram which is a type of sulfur fungicide and is effective in protecting fruit trees and ornamental plants from mice. To obtain desirable results, repellents should be applied at least twice a year: in late fall and in winter.



However, scientists warn us of the short-term effect these products cause: *"Rats have an initial aversion to some odors and tastes, but no repellents have been found to solve a rat problem for more than a very short time"*.

Researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Madison recommend applying chemical repellents to plants in the garden but point out that under conditions of insufficient food resources, mice can eat the bark treated with repellents.

This is due to the fact that when deprived of a shelter or source of food mice have no choice but to return to the house or garden. So when these animals face a matter of life and death, you really need a strong argument to stop them.

## **8. Spray natural repellents along the perimeter of the building**

As a rule, scientists don't approve natural repellents and consider them useless as rodents are too smart, sly and adapt to foul smells quickly enough. But some experts believe that such solutions might be effective.

Fir, cinnamon, cedar, lemongrass and peppermint oils smells are considered to be possible natural rodent repellents.

Spraying dangerous chemicals around the lawn to get rid of rodents is not the best bet since you will do with organic repellents. This includes sprays based on plant extracts and repellent bags which are convenient to use and won't pose a risk to the health of your kids and pets. One of the clear advantages is the possibility to use homemade repellents.

# 17 Methods To Get Rid Of Rodents: Comparison Table

Product / Ingredient	Pros	Cons	Rate
<b>Sanitation</b>	Clean up debris in the attic, barn or backyard to remove potential mouse nests; long-term solution	Won't eliminate existing rodents.	5
<b>Sealing entry points</b>	Prevent mice from entering the house. Do it before the mouse season; long-term solution.	Won't eliminate existing rodents.	9
<b>Snap and Glue traps</b>	cheap and easy to install; do not require poisons.	Rodents won't die instantly; a dozen of units are needed.	8
<b>Poison Baits</b>	Is not very effective for large areas (warehouses and farms) for mass killing but is quick.	Can be dangerous for small children and pets; cause suffering to rodents..	10
<b>Electronic Traps</b>	Immediate killing. No mess, no blood. Safe for humans and pets.	Is not a cheap method, with prices starting from \$20.	10
<b>Ultrasonic devices</b>	Safe for humans and pets; once installed does not require further human participation; no need to remove dead mice	Not proven scientifically to repel rodents permanently; lose intensity with distance; rodents become accustomed to noises	8

<b>Mothballs</b>	Easy to use, inexpensive and available in many stores; can be placed in hard-to-reach areas	Toxic; can be hazardous to pets and children; not effective outdoors due to the effect of rains and winds.	7
<b>Thiram (sulfur fungicide)</b>	Distasteful for rodents; not dangerous to the human health when properly handled; scientifically proven mice repellent; recommended for the protection of crops and ornamental plants from rodents.	Can be toxic when inhaled; for outdoors use only; should not be applied to buildings or paintwork as it can stain them.	8
<b>Fresh Cab</b>	EPA-registered plant-based rodent repellent; its efficiency is proven in many laboratory tests; works through emitting the repelling smell; safe and green product.	Short-term effect, it is rather a preventive measure.	5
<b>Ammonia</b>	Natural solution; based on a substance contained in predators' urine which frightens mice; has a strong smell.	Short-term effect; mice urine contains ammonia as well, therefore, the solution may not work; poisonous when ingested; not safe for kids and pets	7
<b>Castor oil</b>	Natural, non-toxic, safe for children and pests; recommended for using in gardens; can be used in the rainy season	Short-term effect; moves animals from one location to another, rather than expelling them.	4
<b>Cayenne pepper</b>	The smell of the pepper is supposed to drive rodents away; safe for children and pests;	Short-term effect; moves animals from one location to another, rather than	4

	does not include poisons	expelling them.	
<b>Peppermint oil</b>	Repels rodents, recommended as a preventive measure against mice; safe for children and pests; does not include poisons; smells fresh unlike many other natural repellents; masks pheromone trails of rodents; menthol is irritating to rodents.	Should have a high concentration to be effective; requires repeated applications every few days; short-term effect; moves animals from one location to another, not expels them.	4
<b>Tarragon</b>	Natural and safe, aromatic to humans; the scent of tarragon is hated by a number of pests; good for using in the garden.	Not scientifically proven to repel rodents; short-term effect	3
<b>Diatomaceous earth</b>	Environmentally friendly; does not contain poisons	Not effective when the product gets wet; can cause skin irritation.	6
<b>Cats</b>	100% organic. No dead bodies, cats consume them.	Not reliable, a cat might neglect catching mice.	3
<b>Exterminators</b>	You needn't worry about buying or doing anything.	A very expensive method. Exterminators will set traps and put poisons but it is you who will remove the dead.	9

As you can see from the table, of 17 methods referred to above, the most effective ones are **electronic traps** and **poisonous baits** which produce the most tangible results and will solve your problem once for all. Both of them lead to a lethal outcome but it can be justified given hazards posed by rats or mice. These methods are followed by **sealing entry points** in the house and commanding the services of **exterminators**. However, the former measure is relevant for mice only while the latter one is quite expensive. **Natural solutions** are not considered by scientists to be effective enough, nevertheless, they may be very helpful in repelling mice and rats from plants in the garden. And yet, when it comes to protecting crops, **thiram**, a chemical repellent, is the best bet. There are solutions which have not been proven yet to eradicate rodents permanently but are consistently tested and improved. This is primarily the case with an **ultrasonic repellent**, something that has every prospect of success but currently is believed to have just a short-term effect.

# What You Should Know About Poison Baits

Apart from non-toxic baits used to lure rats and mice into traps, there are rodenticide poison baits which kill rodents. Their price typically ranges from \$11 to \$65. Unlike natural baits intended for all kinds of traps, rodenticide baits must be put into bait stations only.



## When Will The Effect Occur?

After eating the bait, rodents die within a period from several hours to weeks. Mice may die within a day. But the population of rats dies more slowly, over the course of a week or two, because they are larger than mice. Remember that poison baits are toxic and can kill any animal including pets, squirrels, raccoons and other wild animals. Especially be careful when using them near kids.

There are first and second generation baits. The former do not kill instantly and take some time to accumulate in a rodent's body. Second generation poisons require a single intake.



Rodenticides vary depending on active ingredients:

- Active ingredients in rodenticides that are **anticoagulants** (e.g., warfarin, diphacinone, and bromadiolone) disrupt the blood's ability to clot, causing internal bleeding and rodents die from internal hemorrhages.
- Products containing **non-anticoagulant** active ingredients are toxic in a variety of other ways. They are able to affect the nervous system (e.g., bromethalin) or they may increase the levels of calcium in the blood, leading to kidney, liver, or heart failure (e.g., cholecalciferol).

Rat poison ingredients are rodenticides: diphacinone, brodifacoum, bromadiolone, etc.

## 5 Rules For The Use Of Poisons



- ❑ **First generation poison** kills rodents slowly, with several days of feeding needed. Nowadays, nearly all baits for rats and mice fall into this group. They have a cumulative effect, so the rodents do not die immediately, rather within a few days. For best results, rats should eat the poisonous bait repeatedly.
- ❑ In the case of **second generation baits**, containing such ingredients as bromadiolone and brodifacoum, a single feeding is enough.

- ❑ You should be aware that mice and rats can learn to identify and avoid toxic baits; this tendency is known as “*bait shyness*.” To avoid bait shyness, it may be **necessary to prebait** (offering rodents similar but non-toxic bait prior to applying the toxic one) an area before using toxic baits.
- ❑ In areas with limited water supply, a **liquid rat poison** works great. For example, you can buy *Tomcat Mouse and Rat Liquid Concentrated Poison Bait* (~£53.39).



- ❑ **There is no poison that would be safe for pets** as all poisonous baits are created to kill rodents. Be very careful: rodenticide poisoning may occur when your pet swallows such bait. Although a dog or cat cannot get into the bait station, they may come across the poison somewhere in the backyard as rodents have a habit of hiding food and baits in particular. Also, a poisoned rat or mouse may be eaten by a pet.

To prevent your cat or dog from ingesting the bait by chance, you may string it up with a strong wire between two fences, for example, or hide pieces of bait in landscape rocks or other places where pets cannot get access. And yet, If you are worried about pets, try an alternative method — electronic repellers.

Poison baits are typically produced in **blocks, chunks, pellets or bars** which are individually wrapped to help keep the product fresh.

Using a poison bait is generally **cheaper than trapping** because it is less labor-intensive, and they do not need to be checked every day. So it's more beneficial to use poison bait in large areas and constructions such as hangers, sheds etc., where other methods are inconvenient to use.

## 6 Best Rat And Mouse Poisons

### TomCat Rat Poison Baits



Tomcat poison baits, luring both rats and mice, are easy to use and cost-efficient. **Tomcat All Weather Bait** has the active ingredient **diphacinone**. We have found out that this product is just like a rat poison bait that professional exterminators use in Protecta bait stations (~\$140), but some people think that 4 lb. is plenty for non-commercial applications. The blocks of bait have holes to insert them onto the steel rods in a bait station, which keeps them away from other animals. We strongly recommend using Tomcat only with bait stations.

A one-bait bucket lasts most in the summer and fall, and during winter it can last the whole season. Tomcat bait chunks work fast – a lot of people say that they began finding dead rats the next day or within the next week, depending on the stage of a rodent infestation. Also, there is enough stuff to deal with the rodent problem for a very long time: *"Once the immediate problem is resolved, I'll just leave the bait blocks in place and check them about once a month. If one is eaten, I'll replace it at once. No more rats!"* one customer said. The product rates 4.0 out of 5 stars on Amazon.com, with 745 reviews.

Another product of this manufacturer, **TomCat Rat Poison Bait Blocks with Bromadiolone 784g tub** contains a blend of about 15 different food products attractive to rodents. The baits have gnawing surfaces preferred by rodents and an extended life in the field. The bait is combined with another second-generation anticoagulant, **bromadiolone**, for higher mortality of mice and rats. Once a rodent has ingested the poison, it will die within a week. Sometimes, eating a lethal dose in one feed is enough for the critter

to be killed. But to be sure, you should provide rats and mice with the bait on a daily basis and regularly check its sufficiency.

It is nice that the company takes care of children's safety by including into the bait a human aversive agent. Nevertheless, be sure that your children don't have access to the product. Tomcat product rates 4.7 out of 5 stars on Amazon.com. Most consumers claim that the solution helps to get rid of rodents and works fast. One buyer stresses the need to alternate a bait, no matter how effective it is.

*TomCat Rat Poison Bait Blocks with Bromadiolone 784g tub.*

**Price: ~\$23.15**

*Tomcat All Weather Bait Chunx, 4 lb. Price: ~\$21.79*

### **JT Eaton 709-PN Bait Block Rodenticide Anticoagulant Bait For Mice and Rats**



**JT Eaton Bait Block** rodenticide has an active ingredient **diphacinone**, a first generation anticoagulant bait. It contains 144 packs of 1-ounce rodenticide blocks. The manufacturer especially recommends stationing the baits in garages and basements to keep rats and mice away from the house.

The product rates 4.1 out of 5 stars on Amazon.com, with over 500 reviews. Judging by the customer feedback, rats love the bait. People place rat bait stations with this poison bait, leave the house, and after return, they find empty stations. It is peanut butter flavor that attracts rodents.

Customers also note that the solution works very quickly – rats may eat poison blocks on the first day after the bait was placed. Also, the product can be easily broken into pieces, although there is no hole in the center of the bait block. One customer gives a valuable tip to other customers about using JT: *“Remember, the adult rats will feed something new to their young and watch to see how they react to it, before they will eat it themselves. Be patient”*.

**Price: ~\$25.16**

### **D-Con Ready Mix Baitbits Mice Rats Brodifacoum 3oz (1 Tray)**



This is an old and proven killer of rats with the active ingredient **brodifacoum**. This package contains 1 bait tray. All you need to do is peel back the film covering the tray with bait and place it in the approximate area where you have seen rodents.

D-Con rates 4.3 out of 5 stars on Amazon.com, with over 700 customer reviews. As the users note, these baits work against both mice and rats, especially against horrible “Norwegian Warf Rats”, as well as squirrels and chipmunks. If you want to destroy rats to the bitter end, you need to keep giving them more poison bait until they all die.

*“My husband has been using this brand for a few years now to deter some rats that tend to live in the attic. It does help a lot, just have to make sure once use, you have to regularly check the attic for potential issues of possibly finding dead rats,”* a common customer's review reads.

We have picked up some useful tips in the users' feedback. First, you may mix the stuff with peanut butter. Second, when using these baits, do not resort to other rodent control methods, such as exterminators or glue traps, simultaneously. Otherwise, they are likely to stunt the product's effectiveness.

**Price: ~\$44.95**

## Farnam Just One Bite II Bar, 16 oz



Farnam Just One Bite rat poison based on **bromadiolone** comes as a solid one-pound block, scored to easily break into eight 2-ounce pieces. Although the product has more reviews than the previous ones, almost 1,000, it has scored just 3.9 out of 5 stars on Amazon.com. According to the users, rats and mice really enjoy eating this stuff. Customers note that the poison works great, for example, one of the users has found a dead rat within 12 hours after he placed the bait.

They also advise to not lose heart if the product seems not to work. You might need to use a larger portion for pesky mice and rats or use Farnam bait in a combination with a trap for better results. One of the customers who used the bait with a couple of old-school snap traps and an electronic mouse trap said, it works like a charm for him. A rodent may find the bait even though it is left in a bag, instead of being placed in the critters pathway.

You'll probably have to get rid of dead rats. In such a case, we also recommend purchasing one of those long claw grip things people use to pick up trash in order to remove dead rats – such as the Unger 36-Inch Pick-Up Tool.

**Price: ~\$8.68**

## Havoc Rat & Mouse Bait



Havoc Rat & Mouse Bait contains the active ingredient **brodifacoum**, the strongest anticoagulant rodenticide available. In addition, it has a blend of bait ingredients highly attractive to mice and rats.

Well, the first thing that comes to mind is that the product is too pricey, given that there are only 40 twin packs (2 x 50 grams). But as Amazon customers have noticed, it differentiates the more expensive poison baits from the budget ones: *“The rodents are eating this product like mad and dying. As the ads say, it kills them and dehydrates them so there is no stink from their rotting carcasses”*.

They note that Havoc Bait works great against rats and mice – at any time of the year, even in winter, because of the all-weather formulation. The product rates 4.4 out of 5 stars on Amazon.com but has just about 100 reviews.

**Price: ~\$59.08**



# What Types Of Traps Are Available For Use?

According to scientists, there are only two really effective methods: poisoning and trapping. Now, let's dwell on the latter. Different types of traps kill rodents variously. Killing of animals is cruelty in any case but some traps do it in a more humane way than others.



## Which Trap To Choose?

**Snap Trap** is the simplest and oldest type of trap. A classic wooden trap with an iron clamp is the most cut-rate one. The bait is pricked on this rod and that's where a mouse or rat finds it. As soon as it tries to take some food, the clamp shuts and squeezes the victim. The rod is robust enough to kill an animal or harm a person who was not careful enough when handling it.

Apart from wooden traps, there are plastic and metal analogues available on the market. Their exterior may differ from a classic option to a great extent, but the mode of operation is the same. Snap traps should be set perpendicular to the base of the wall.

With its low price being the main advantage, snap traps have two *drawbacks*:

- Snap traps are too small for fat rats.
- Rats and mice can steal the bait from the trap and run away.

**Live Catch Traps** don't kill mice but keep them in a small cage instead. It is suitable for those who find killing an animal, even if it



is a pest, unacceptable. A trapped mouse or rat is released somewhere far away from home. Another advantage of a live catch trap is its low price, starting from \$10.



**Glue Traps** are glued boards, trays or slats. They trap mice effectively but will hardly be able to retain a rat for a long time. The main advantage of such solution is that glue traps are very cheap. However, there is a number of *drawbacks*:

- A glued rodent will twitch and squeak nervously and noisily while trying to escape. The glue isn't poisonous and won't kill the rodent, but when trapped at night, the captive rodent will surely disturb the household residents as it is impossible to sleep hearing this squeaking.
- The stuck critter often urinate and defecate struggling to free itself from the glue. As experts from the University of California put it, when controlling deer mice in this way, the potential for contacting hantavirus is greatly increased. For this reason, avoid glue boards for controlling deer mice.
- It may take some hours or even days before they die from dehydration and pain.
- A rat can free itself in an hour or two.

**Electronic Traps** are the most effective and cleanest ones. These traps are quite expensive, with the price starting from \$19, and are not recommended for outdoor use without any waterproof accessory. But at the same time, there is a number of *advantages* of using such electronic device:

- ❑ A mouse or rat runs inside such a trap in search of food and dies of electrocution quickly and painlessly. The electricity is running through its body for at least two minutes. This method helps you stay away from mess and blood.
- ❑ Electric mouse trap are convenient and practical for spacious rooms and produce storages as they don't need to be charged very often.
- ❑ There is no chance to escape.
- ❑ Easy to empty and clean. You do not have to touch their corpses, just throw them into a trash can and clean up the tray using vinegar or dish detergent. We recommend that you should do it since rats avoid the smell of their dead.



## How To Make Your Trap Effective

**Rats are neophobic** – they are incredulous to new objects. That is why they are very cautious but you can outwit rats. Leave the trap unplugged for a few days allowing rodents to become accustomed to the item and feed there. And only two or three days later activate the killing trap. They will come to have a lunch as usual... but it will be their last feast.

But with mice, you have to take a different approach. Mice are very inquisitive and will investigate each new object placed in their foraging territory. If control devices are not initially successful, move them around to another location.

Desley Whisson, Extension Vertebrate Pest Specialist from the University of California gives some advice about how to find out your rodent bait preference. Put three or four different non-toxic baits — peanut butter, seeds, cheese, walnut pieces, kitten kibble, bacon bits, etc. — in places where you have seen rodents. In a few days, you will find out which ones they prefer. But be patient since rats are suspicious of new objects. The adaption may take three or four days.

Choose the best bait. Take into account that, contrary to popular belief, rats and mice prefer fresh, high-quality food and will reject spoiled, insect-infested or inferior food items when given a choice. Try to experiment with food since you never know what kind of stuff they would like. It can be even something like Wrigley's Spearmint Gum.

**Mice are known to prefer seeds and cereal grains.** They also are fond of food high in fat and protein such as nuts, bacon, butter and sweets. Peanut butter bait is popular among mouse trap users as its density makes it convenient to roll small balls or spread it on the sensor surface of the trap. Contrary to a popular myth, **mice are not crazy about cheese** and are as enthusiastic about it as they are about other products, so cheese is not always the best

option. Unrefined vegetable oil will also be a decent alternative to peanut butter. Pour some oil on the white bread or place some roasted sunflower seeds or peanut hearts inside the mouse trap.



**Food preferences of rats** depend on the species. Some are **herbivorous**, some **consume fruits** while others are **carnivorous**. But most rats are **omnivorous** eating whatever they find. In particular, they feed on grains, fruit, nuts, eggs, milk, candy, and items in garbage cans. Wild rats also eat bugs, insects, leather, fur and other rodents and small animals.

## What Else Should You Know About Trapping?

- Normally, traps are effective when dealing with **small numbers of rats or mice**.

Scientists from the University of Florida note that when rodents are plentiful or where unsanitary conditions exist with harborage, do not confine your pest control strategy to just setting traps. Implement an integrated approach using both traps and poisoned baits.

- Compared to rats, **mice forage only short distances from their nest**, usually not more than 10-25 feet. When food and shelter are adequate, their foraging range may be only a few feet. For this reason, traps and other control devices must be placed in areas where mouse activity is most apparent.

- **Mice prefer to travel adjacent to walls and other edges** — another critical point to remember when positioning control devices.
- **There should be plenty of traps.** Rats and mice are nocturnal animals. As a reference, mice may go looking for food up to 30 times per night.
- **Rodents identify food primarily by smell and taste.** Both rats and mice have poor eyesight and rely mostly on their excellent senses of smell, taste, and touch.

## 5 Best Rat & Mouse Traps

### Victor Electronic Mouse Trap for 100% Kill Rate



Victor is the best known trap but for mice only as the access is too small for rats. It can kill a rodent within five seconds which is why many consider it the most humane mice killer. There will be no mess, no blood and no cord is needed as Victor is powered by four AA batteries. One set of these batteries will be enough to kill over 100 rodents. You do not need to check inside it as the indicator light flashes when the job is done and a rodent is electrocuted. If there is a dead rodent, remove it as soon as possible as no mouse will enter inside if the box smells another dead rodent.

Victor has scored 3.4 out of 5 stars on Amazon.com. *“I look at it everyday in the garage hoping it won't flash green. But when it does there's one less mouse. It's clean and unobtrusive. I put peanut butter in it,”* one customer says. And yet some users claim that the device does not work for them complaining about failures. One user

points out to the indicator's disfunction while another says that a mouse jumped after having a shock and damaged the lid.

**Price: ~\$30.7**

### **Rodent Terminator Electric Mouse And Rat Trap**



This trap is designed both for rats and mice. You need a waterproof electronic rat trap? Then Rodent Terminator Trap is the best bet for you! Manufacturer promises the device works even in the rain. It takes 2 minutes to set up and then the trap ready to kill rats. By the way, you will never miss the moment of capture because the trap's indicator gives sound alerts and visual signals. When triggered, it makes a sound for about 30 seconds similar to a smartphone in vibrate mode. If plates of Rodent Terminator Trap get too dirty, it'll give you a fault indication (red LED light). And yet, you may need to regularly check the trap as there is no guarantee that a sound alert will be heard from a distance.

We recommend that you should use some different bait combos if it seems not to work. For example, cracker with peanut butter, cat treats, peanuts, sunflower seeds or dog biscuits – choose the right one for your rats' tastes. But don't use a salted product like nuts and seeds since the device has to detect the presence of a rodent but a wet salted path can fool it. Salt also corrodes the metal plates.

Terminator Trap rates 3.5 out of 5 stars in reviews on Amazon.com. The product is quite expensive but most customers believe it is worth every cent. Nevertheless, you should not expect a quick win over rodents and be extremely patient. Rats are smart animals and they don't like new things. They may offer food to younger rats at

first to decide whether it is worth eating. So it may take about a few days for the first rats' killings.

**Price: ~\$92.95**

## **Victor Rat Zapper Classic Electronic Trap**



Rats and mice are killed quickly and safely with an 8,000 volt electric shock. Once the job is done, the indicator light flashes to let you know about the killed rodent. This rat trap is designed for indoor use or anywhere it's not exposed to outdoor elements, the reusable Rat Zapper Classic Rat Trap provides years of effective rodent control. It is perfect for attics, garages, basements, and sheds.

The product rates 3.6 out of 5 stars on Amazon.com. We have picked up some helpful tips for you. First, it's not recommended to use this electronic trap outdoors without any waterproof accessory. Secondly, bird seed is a perfect bait for mice and rats. Some users put bananas and avocado in the trap – and it works oddly enough. Thirdly, you may use rechargeable batteries in this trap such as Eneloop NiMH batteries. Fourthly, the device works better for rodents with wet feet: you may place a wet sponge in front of the door.

*"In 5 hours alone it killed 25 rats, and these were big ones. I would honestly recommend this trap to anyone rather than poison, it is more humane and less messy,"* one of the customers says.

**Price: ~\$46,20**



## A Humane Mouse Trap - Vensmile Humane Smart Mouse Trap, 2-Pack



This is a fundamentally distinguished product of our review. This 2-pack transparent flask is safe for kids and pets and is suitable for those who don't want to kill any animals, including pests. What you need is to place the peanut butter inside the device and wait. Once a mouse is trapped, it stays there unharmed and receives oxygen through wall holes. Release a rodent by opening the door somewhere far enough from your house. Vensmile can be used both indoors and outdoors.

This humane device is not as popular yet as rival products but rates high enough, with 4.1 out of 5 stars in reviews on Amazon.com. Do you want to teach your child how to treat animals in a humane manner? You won't find a better trap for this purpose. *"No harm came of the mouse, as the traps allow for quick and easy release,"* one customer points out.

**Price: ~\$14,71**



## Intruder 30442 Mousetrap, 6 Packs



The device is intended to suffocate mice. Do you need to catch multiple rodents? This set by Intruder provides six traps. They are made of stainless steel and their exterior resembles improved classic wooden traps. The manufacturer points out that the product's simple design makes it the most effective mouse trap on the market. These ones are more sensitive making any bait theft impossible. A mouse is hit and the trap's plastic design ensures that asphyxiation is made without mess and blood.

The product is popular with the customers, rated highly and awarded 4.1 out of 5 stars on Amazon, with a total of over 1,000 reviews. Consumers observe super-fast results as mice get trapped within a few hours after the device is set. *"I've been using Snap-E mouse traps for about a year now and they have worked good for me: catching a couple hundred mice in about a year's time,"* one customer shares his experience.

**Price: ~\$51,34**

# Why Should You Use Repellents?

Although poisons and traps do the job, a complete eradication of rodents is possible only if an integrated approach is implemented. By using repellents, you **create an unfavorable environment for mice and rats**, something that contributes to forcing them out from the house. The main downside of repellent products is their short-term effect. Apart from that, these solutions are considered to be not strong enough to guarantee a positive outcome. For this reason, scientists suggest repellents as a supplementary measure, though a significant one.



A clear advantage of using rodent repellent is that **this method is humane and more comfortable for those unwilling to deal with dead bodies of mice or rats**. Also, rodent control by means of repellents eliminates hazards posed by the critters' rotting corpses which are often hard to be discovered in numerous gaps in the house. Apart from the foul smell, dead rodents are likely to be a source of infection.

## Rodent Repellents: What Is This?

Many studies have been conducted to reveal the efficiency of chemical repellents against mice and rats. This includes mainly **moth balls for indoor use and thiram for applying to crops**. *“Moth balls or flakes (naphthalene) may effectively repel mice from closed areas where a sufficient concentration of the chemical can be attained in the air,”* experts from the University of California claim. They add that naphthalene, however, is not a registered mouse repellent, just like household ammonia which has a time-limited effect and is not registered with the EPA.

According to scientists, such **taste repellents** as Ro-pel have an impact on rodents and have been in demand for a long time. In particular, Ro-pel has long been registered “for use in repelling house mice and other rodents from gnawing on trees, poles, fences, shrubs, garbage, and other objects.” It contains denatonium benzoate which set the Guinness record for being the bitterest substance ever.

As for protecting crops, including fruit trees and ornamental plants, taste repellents with the active ingredient **thiram** are the most recommended ones. This is a type of sulfur fungicide which, besides keeping rodents away, will make the crop healthier. More importantly, it is a scientifically proven mice repellent. Although the stuff poses the health risk when inhaled, it is considered by EPA to be not dangerous to humans when handled properly. Take into account that the substance should not be applied to buildings or paintwork as they can stain. Intended for the outdoor use only, thiram-based products are most effective when applied in late fall and in winter.

**Ammonia** is a compound contained in the urine of mouse and rat predators. The smell imitates the presence of predators in the area scaring rodents out or at least making them disturbed and less confident. The substance is typically commercially available as the active ingredient in a household detergent.

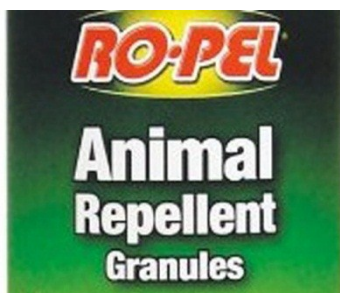
**Ultrasonic devices.** This is an environmentally friendly deterrent, as well as safe, clean and non-toxic. Electronic repellents provide a good alternative to dangerous poisons and deadly traps. The trick is that ultrasonic sounds cannot be perceived by humans but provoke agitation in rats. Another advantage of using ultrasonic devices is

that they are relatively inexpensive and do not consume much electricity.

The main drawbacks are that their effectiveness has not been proven yet and opinions vary as to whether such devices really work and, if they do, what kind of pests they affect for sure. Also, their short range does not seem to support the approach.

## 5 Best Rodent Repellents & Deterrents

### **Ropel Animal Repellent Granules, 10 oz**



Ro-pel with the active ingredient **denatonium benzoate**, the most bitter chemical compound known, is available in the form of granules. It is intended for warding off rodents from the garden, house and other structures. Feel free to sprinkle these granules in the lawn or garden since they are not harmful to vegetation. The solution affects animals both by scent and taste, enhancing the effect.

The product has scored 3.3 out of 5 stars. *“It works really well and a little bit goes a long way,”* a customer notes. However, some buyers claim that the product requires repeated application. Another user complains about his plants being damaged and discolored by the repellent. *“It stunted the growth of the plants,”* he says. Perhaps the problem stems from the way the product was applied. Be sure to read the label and follow its directions.

**Price:** ~\$6,45

## Enoz Para Moth Balls



Moth balls are widely used not just at repelling insects but rodents as well. The product has the active ingredient **dichlorobenzene**, a modern formulation used instead of naphthalene which is notorious for its inflammability. Moth balls' effectiveness in mouse and rat control has been confirmed by a number of scientists.

Keep in mind that the stuff is recommended for the indoor use only since in the open air its repulsive smell is likely to be winded. The best places to apply moth balls are the attic and basement where these critters normally establish their nests. Do not forget to screen and seal openings after the rodents will be chased out.

Enoz math balls rates 4.1 out of 5 stars on Amazon.com, with over 200 customer reviews. *"The old standby, still the best around. To keep away moths and discourage mice,"* a customer says. *"Spread around shed – keeps the snakes away, plus mice!"* another one agrees.

**Price: ~\$27.56**

## Lindor Ammonia 2lt Scented



**Ammonia** is designed to clean such trouble spots as a garbage disposal or trash cans. What you need is to apply the solution, wait for several minutes and then wash away. The product's active ingredient is ammonia which is also contained in the urine of mouse predators, so mice detect this odor and stay away.

The main downside of the product is that ammonia is also contained in the urine of mice, therefore, you never know what the effect will be. Apart from that, ammonia is not safe for humans and pets in case it is handled improperly. In particular, the stuff is poisonous when ingested.

Lindor Ammonia rates 5.0 out of 5 stars on Amazon.com. The customers find the substance helpful in eliminating animal's trails. *"Stops the dogs peeing up my front step and gets rid of any smells,"* one of them says.

**Price: ~\$6,48**

## SEICOSY Ultrasonic Pest Repeller



This ultrasound device is designed for deterring a number of animals including rats and mice, just select the relative mode. This is a 3-in-1 unit, as it can repel the rodents with ultrasound, an audio signal and with powerful flashing LED strobe lights flickering.

Equipped with an infrared motion sensor, the device detects unwanted small visitors in your garden or house. Indoors, plug it in a socket while outdoors it can operate from four “C” batteries. The device is water-resistant and even suggested for placing near ponds and in boats.

Seicosy ultrasonic repellent rates 3.2 out of 5 stars on Amazon.com. *“Emits a good sound with adjustable volume,”* a customer points out referring the mode of audible sound.

**Price: ~\$29,45**

## Pest Venator – Ultrasonic Pest Repeller



**Pest Venator ultrasonic repeller** is designed for mice and rats. This pack includes 4 plug-in ultrasonic repellers. You may install the device in your apartment, house, garage, warehouse, office, and store to keep these critters away. We have tested the product and revealed that it takes just 4 days to see first results while in a week, there will be a complete surrender of these rodents. In case of a heavy infestation, elimination of the colony may take up to 4 weeks.

The product has a number of advantages. The product is safe for humans and pets, you do not have to deal with poisons and chemicals, nor do you have to bother yourself with removing rats and mice from traps or eliminating the foul smell of the dead. This is a simple, fast and inexpensive solution to the problem. Venator emits ultrasonic waves creating a distressing environment for pests. At first, they just feel disturbed by the waves but in a while, a constant noise becomes unbearable for the critters and they leave the area.

Keep in mind that during the first two weeks, you are likely to observe an increase in pest activity. Do not worry, this is due to the fact that the device makes them nervous and forces out from their nests. Therefore, this is just the first reaction of rodents, their expulsion will follow as soon as they realize that the noises are not going to cease. The set covers a huge area, about 3200 square feet, with each device covering up to 260 square feet.



Venator repeller is new on Amazon.com and does not have customer reviews yet but the users show their interest in it. They are mostly interested in the way the device works, its impact on different species of rodents, as well as humans and pets.

**Price: ~\$39.99**

# What Natural Solutions Are Suggested By Scientists?

Rats and mice are very clever and tenacious, therefore, it's no wonder that they cannot be easily kept away from the house by repellents. However, rodents have weak points which can be exploited by using natural repellents. In particular, mice don't like the smells of oils of **fir**, **cinnamon**, **cedar**, **lemongrass** and **peppermint** while rats can't stand **pepper** and **peppermint**.

So why scientists are so sceptical about natural repellents? The main downside of such solution is a short-term effect these products cause. According to scientific studies, rats and mice can really be repelled by some odors and tastes but they will eventually return or become accustomed to the product. There are two ways to deal with the durability problem:



- Alternate natural repellents using products based on different active ingredients, the wider choice the better.
- Regularly re-apply the repellent since smells based on extracts from natural plants do not remain for a long time, particularly in the open air.

- Natural solutions are highly recommended and are especially effective for using as a preventive measure. This is due to the fact that rodents which have already established their nests in the house and discovered a source of food there are hard to be forced out just by the scent of peppermint oil only. Conversely, if rats or mice being in the search for a new shelter, encounter the smell particularly repulsive to them in the area of your house, they are not likely to choose this building for their breeding site.

## What Is The Benefit Of Natural Repellents?

First of all, all natural solutions are mostly safe for humans and pets, therefore, you will not have to bother about hazards pose to the health. Actually, this is a general tendency worldwide to opt for products based on plant extracts. Apart from being safe, they are environmentally friendly and for this reason are endorsed by the public and relative governmental institutions. Natural repellents are available in sprays, repellent bags, and granules.

The second reason for making choice in favor of natural repellents is that they are ideal for protecting crops from the damage caused by rodents. The thing is that rats and mice are not typical garden pests and the problem is not worth applying heavy chemicals to plants just to get rids of these critters there. Their main habitat are human-made structures providing harborage and breeding sites, and this is where the bulk of impact should be directed.

## Types Of Natural Repellents

Actually, there are not many of them and below you will find those recommended by researchers:



- ❑ **Repellents based on essential oils** that are concentrated liquids containing aroma compounds from plants. Mice and rats are sensitive to oils of peppermint, cinnamon, cedarwood, fir, and lemongrass. Essential oils are widely used as in repellent products against a plenitude of pests. Their strong and distinctive smell is considered to be repulsive to rodents as well.
- ❑ **Castor oil** derived from the seeds of the castor oil plant is believed to cause breathing difficulty in mice and rats.
- ❑ **Cayenne pepper** is a taste repellent with the strong and offensive flavor. The stuff can be sprinkled or used in a spray. It is especially suggested for rats. It is effective since mice and rats identify food by the taste and smell rather than sight.
- ❑ **Natural enemies.** Sometimes a **cat** can do the job of a team of exterminators. The main downside of this solution is volatility of the animal's behaviour — you never know whether your cat will prey on rodents or not. Sure, domesticated felines are more effective in hunting rats and mice. Large birds like **hawks, falcons** and **owls** are known

to regularly feed on rodents. Among them, owls are preferable as they are nocturnal like rats and mice. Some **snake** species consume rodents as well.

## Save Your Money With Homemade Recipes

There are plants believed to repel rodents. You may plant peppermint, tansy or elderberry in the garden to make the area unfavorable for rats and mice. But first of all, you can make your own solution based on a combination of ingredients of your choice. This helps save money because most of the active ingredients can commonly be found in the kitchen. So, here are some recipes on how to make mixtures repelling mice and rats:

**Recipe No.1.** Apply 5 drops of a 100% **peppermint oil** to cotton balls and spread them in the rodents' pathway. Re-apply the oil to the balls monthly. Although this solution may not drive rodents out of your house, it can be surely used to protect certain sites in the house from their presence.



**Recipe No.2.** Make a spray to cover larger areas. To this end, mix water and **peppermint oil** in a one-to-one ratio and pour the liquid in a 50ml bottle. Shake up the mixture every time before application.

**Recipe No.3.** Add two tablespoons of **castor oil**, six tablespoons of liquid dishwashing soap, one tablespoon of tabasco and a minced

garlic clove into a quart of water. Mix and apply to areas where rodents have been noticed. This solution is recommended for the outdoor use.

**Recipe No.4.** Place uncovered containers with a household **ammonia** in the infested areas. You do not have to spray or wipe down the surfaces. It will evaporate, and that's enough.

**Recipe No.5.** Soak cotton balls in **ammonia** and distribute them where mice or rats have been noticed.

### 3 Best Natural Repellents

#### Fresh Cab Botanical Rodent Repellent



**Earthkind Botanical Rodent Repellent** is a set of all-natural repellent pouches of long-term effect which look like herb sachets. A pack contains 4 such pouches. The main active ingredient is **balsam fir oil** which is considered to be a botanical pesticide. Among passive ingredients you'll find corn chips and various essential oils. The manufacturer promises that a single pouch will repel mice for 100 days with a "woody scent" which is pleasant to humans but offensive to rodents. However, some Amazon customers claim that its effect lasts no more than two months which clearly is appropriate.

The product rates 4.3 out of 5 stars in reviews on Amazon.com. The product can be used both indoors and outdoors. In particular, it can be placed in closets, a garage, other auxiliary areas, and even inside

the car as it is proven effective from the customers' experiences. You might also find helpful some tricks when using Fresh Cab Rodent Repellent:

- Remember that pouches work better in poorly ventilated spaces, therefore it's more effective to use them during cold winters than in summer when you keep the windows open.
- Use 2 pouches for a medium-sized room. For a better result, the smell in the room has to be intense, so you can put one pouch somewhere along the mice trail, and the other one near food should it be stored in the said room.
- Don't put Fresh Cab near radiators and heaters as the smell will be too strong.
- Mark the expiration date on each pouch so that you don't forget to replace it in time. As soon as the pouch stops smelling, its contents can be used by rats.
- Use additional rat traps and other products indoors, if there are too many rodents.

**Price: ~\$37.99**

### **Rodent Defense Repellent Spray, 32 oz**



The spray is based on natural ingredients including **oils of garlic, peppermint and rosemary** as well as **white pepper**. According to the manufacturer, it made and used by professional exterminators to repel unwanted animals from the garden, garage and the attic. When touched, smelled or tasted by rodents, the substance irritates them.



The product is recommended for the use in dry areas and is best as a barrier. It must not be applied directly to eatables. To achieve greater impact, spray the stuff generously twice a week and after rains. Rodent Defense can also be used in the attic and garage where a 3-foot wide barrier should be created to keep rodents out.

This repellent has scored 3.4 out of 5 stars on Amazon.com, with over 500 customer reviews. *“I used this in and around my BBQ where I had been seeing mice and rats lately. Used it, and POOF! No more mice or rats!”* a customer says.

**Price: ~\$19.99**

### **Grandpa Gus's Natural Rodent Repellent**



The repellent is based the active ingredient **peppermint oil**. Simply unscrew the cap and apply the oil, and that's it! Pour the substance on cotton balls and place them along the walls where mice have been observed.

According to the manufacturer, the repellent targets mice and can be used both indoors and outdoors. One of the key advantages of the product is that you can apply it in any place of your house without worrying about harming pets or small children as it is natural.

Grandpa Gus's Repellent has scored 3.6 out of 5 stars in reviews on Amazon.com. Many customers indicate the pleasant scent of the stuff and find it helpful but note that it has to be applied at least twice a day to obtain positive results.

**Price: ~\$33.46**



# How To Get Rid Of Dead Rat Smell In The House?

As soon as you go ahead with mouse or rat control using lethal methods, you will surely face another problem stemming from the first one. This is an urgent need to eliminate corpses of dead rodents which are a source of the foul smell and probably a nidus of infection. What you should do is to find the dead rodent and neutralize the smell. Sometimes, the former is unrealizable while the latter is entirely in your hands.



No matter how many mice or rats are killed, even a single corpse will become a trouble spot. It is a difficult task to implement, especially if you don't know for sure where the smelly corpse is located — in the wall gaps or between the floors.

What is the dead rat smell like? It can be compared with propane gas or something rotten. Do you know that the smell given off by the rodent's body can spread up to 300 meters away from the corpse? That's why it is hard to locate the rotting body. Moreover, the odor won't go away entirely until the corpse is mummified or decomposed to the skeleton. This is why we shall take different measures which complement each other to eliminate the problem.

## 5 Best Ways To Remove The Smell Of Dead Mice And Rats

Let's start with the most primitive way allowing to use items that are always at your disposal.

1. **Ground coffee.** Use fresh or used but dry ground coffee which is a quality odor absorber. It can be placed in different parts of the house to get rid of the unpleasant smell.

This is an emergency method and, therefore, ground coffee may be put in various locations, such as in the air conditioning vents, in the basement, inside the racks or cabinets. This is not the most effective means of neutralizing the smell but it will be useful for the time being until you buy something more powerful.

2. **Odor Removing Bags.** Absorbents are helpful when you know exactly where the rodent's corpse is but for some reason you can't actually remove the body from there.

For example, when it is in pipes, inside the walls or in the chimney. These are the places where mice and rats (and sometimes even squirrels and birds) die quite often. There is no need to place the bag directly on the source of the smell, instead you can hang it above the crawl space and lock the room. The odor will begin to decrease in the first few hours and will be gone completely within the following few days or within a week at most.

3. **Air ionizers** may be used as a supplementary measure when eliminating the horrible smell of dead rodents.



In most cases, manufacturers assure that their ionizers are able to function properly in rooms of up to 3,500 square feet. This is a huge space – and realistically speaking you have to understand that no single ionizer can cover such area, but it may be useful when trying to remove the dead rat smell.

4. **Acetic acid** and other products containing it, as well as **chlorine** and **formalin** are considered to be professional disinfectants. These are the most effective products for getting rid of putrid smell. However, we do not advise you to use such chemicals at home due to their toxicity and high risk of burning hazard. If you have decided to try it anyway, be very careful.
5. **Bio-enzymatic odor eliminator**. It is natural, non-toxic and safe for humans and pets. Such solutions are designed to remove organic stains from urine, feces, vomit and others.

## 4 Best Products Eliminating Dead Rodent Smell

### Earth Care Odor Removing Bag, 540 g



The product is based on natural ingredients and contains a **blend of minerals**. Use the Earth Care Odor Remover Bag to remove dead rodent odors, urine and feces odors, skunk odors, musty mildew odors, trash room odors, and cigarette smoke. Earth Care Bags do not have to come into contact with the odor causing agent.

The manufacturer promises that one bag will cover about 100 square feet and the smell will be gone within a day. Just hang the bag in the sites where odor is the strongest. Earth Care Bag rates 3.6 out of 5 stars on Amazon.com. *“I had a rat dies under Jacuzzi bathtub and was told the only way to get to it was to rip bathtub out. I bought 2 of these. Sealed one up inside the Jacuzzi and hung the other in bathroom. Within a few days the smell got bearable,”* a customer says.

**Price: ~\$46,41**

## Air Ionizers

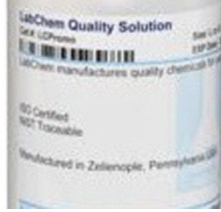


Air ionizers may be used as supplementary measure when eliminating the horrible smell of dead rodents. In addition, they purify the air in the room – removing not only such allergens as pet dander, pollen, mold and dust, but also various unpleasant odor. These units also kill germs, viruses, bacteria and other microbes. With air ionizers, a decomposing corpse of a mouse or rat will cause much less harm that it could have potentially inflicted.

According to the manufacturer, the product provides an airflow through its folding conves microporous activated carbon filter, generates negative ions, effectively isolating almost all air pollutants and odours. HEPA Air Purifier rates 4.1 out of 5 stars on Amazon.com.

**Price: ~\$52,12**

## LabChem LC101601 Acetic Acid, 500 ml



The products based on acetic acid are one of the most effective in eliminating rotten smells and are recommended by professionals. Acetic acid or formaldehyde neutralize putrid smell, be it the smell of a human or an animal decay.

The main drawback is that the product can pose a serious hazard and is very toxic. Acetic acid is a concentrated chemical which leads to serious burns when in contact with the skin or mucous membranes, and its vapors can have an irritating effect. That's why you should be extra cautious, wear special rubber gloves and a respirator for working with chemical compounds. LabChem acetic acid rates 5.0 out of 5 stars on Amazon.com, with just two reviews which is no wonder since the product is mainly purchased for the professional use.

**Price: ~\$16.40**

## Professional Strength Stain & Odor Eliminator



Products removing organic smells can also be helpful in eliminating the odor from rodents since they are organic as well. The odor eliminator contains natural enzymatic bacteria activated on contact with odors and stains. According to the manufacturer, the formula of this product tackles a wide range of odors from stinky yellow pet urine and feces to vomit and other organic spills.

What significantly differs this product from the previous one is its safety to humans and pets as well as the absence of residue. It rates 4.0 out of 5 stars on Amazon.com. But there is just one customer review, therefore, it is hard to assess the consumer feedback so far.

**Price: ~\$26,67**

# TOP Rodent Control Products: Comparison Chart

Product	Description	Price
TomCat Rat Poison Baits, 4 lb.	Active ingredient <b>diphacinone</b> , works fast, recommended for to be used with bait stations. The first results are seen within a week. A one-bait bucket lasts during summer and fall, during winter it can last the whole season	~\$21.79
TomCat Rat Poison Bait Blocks, 784g	The active ingredient is <b>bromadiolone</b> , contains a blend of 15 different food products to attract rodents. Rats and mice die within a week. A human aversive agent is including into the bait for the children's safety.	~\$23.15
JT Eaton 709-PN Bait Block Rodenticide	Active ingredient <b>diphacinone</b> . Contains 144 packs of 1-ounce rodenticide blocks. The manufacturer especially recommends stationing the baits in garages and basements. Works very quickly – rats may eat poison blocks on the first day after the bait was placed.	~\$25.16
D-Con Ready Mix Bait bits, 3oz (1 Tray)	The active ingredient is <b>brodifacoum</b> . Peel back the film covering the tray with bait and place it in the infested area. It is recommended to mix the stuff with peanut butter.	~\$44.95
Farnam Just One Bite II Bar, 16 oz	The active ingredient is <b>bromadiolone</b> . Comes as a solid one-pound block but can be easily break into eight 2-ounce pieces.	~\$8.68
Havoc Rat &	The active ingredient <b>brodifacoum</b> .	~\$59.08



Mouse Bait	It also has a blend of bait ingredients highly attractive to mice and rats.	
Victor Electronic Mouse Trap	An <b>electronic trap</b> intended for mice only because the access is too small for rats. Kills a rodent within five seconds and is considered to be the most humane mice killer. One set of AA batteries will be enough to kill over 100 mice.	~\$30.7
Rodent Terminator Electric Mouse And Rat Trap	An <b>electronic trap</b> designed both for rats and mice. Waterproof and can work in the rain. The trap's indicator gives sound alerts and visual signals as soon as the rodent is captured.	~\$92.95
Victor Rat Zapper Classic Electronic Trap	An <b>electronic trap</b> killing rats and mice quickly with an 8,000-volt electric shock. The indicator light flashes to let you know about the electrocuted rodent. Designed for the indoor use. Recommended for attics, garages, basements, and sheds.	~\$46,20
Vensmile Humane Smart Mouse Trap, 2-Pack	A <b>trap</b> in the form of a transparent flask is safe and intended for those unwilling to kill any animal. Peanut butter should be put on the device. The captured mouse stays there unharmed. Release the rodent by opening the door.	~\$14,71
Intruder 30442 Mousetrap, 6 Packs	The trap is intended to suffocate mice. The set consists of six traps made of stainless steel, with the exterior resembling improved classic wooden traps. A device is sensitive making any bait theft impossible.	~\$51,34
Ropel Animal Repellent Granules, 10 oz	<b>Repellent</b> with the active ingredient <b>denatonium benzoate</b> which is the most bitter chemical compound known, available in granules. Intended for the use in the garden, house, and other structures. Affects critters both	~\$6,45

	by scent and taste.	
Enoz Para Moth Balls	<b>Moth balls</b> with the active ingredient dichlorobenzene, a modern formulation used instead of naphthalene. Recommended for the indoor use only since in the open air its repulsive smell is likely to be winded.	~\$27.56
Lindor Ammonia 2lt Scented	The active ingredient is <b>ammonia</b> which is also contained in the urine of mouse predators and, for this reason, is believed to repel mice. It also helps to get rid of the foul smell.	~\$6,48
SEICOSY Ultrasonic Pest Repeller	The <b>ultrasound repeller</b> designed to keep small animals including rats and mice away from the area. Repels with ultrasound, an audio signal and with powerful flashing LED strobe lights flickering. Equipped with an infrared motion sensor to detect animals.	~\$29,45
Pest Venator — Ultrasonic Pest Repeller	Pest Venator <b>ultrasonic repeller</b> is designed for mice, rats, and other pests. A pack includes 4 plug-in devices. Recommended for the use in the apartment, house, garage, warehouse, office, and store to keep rodents away. A complete eradication of rats in a week, in case of a heavy infestation, it takes up to 4 weeks.	~\$39.99
Fresh Cab Botanical Rodent Repellent	A set of all-natural <b>repellent</b> pouches of the long-term effect. A pack contains 4 such pouches. The main active ingredient is <b>balsam fir oil</b> which is considered to be a botanical pesticide. Other ingredients are corn chips and various essential oils. A pouch repels mice for 100 days.	~\$37.99
Rodent Defense Repellent Spray, 32 oz	The <b>repellent spray</b> is based on natural ingredients including <b>oils of garlic, peppermint, and rosemary</b> as well as <b>white pepper</b> . Intended for	~\$19.99

	the indoor and outdoor use. Affects critters when touched, smelled or tasted. Recommended to be applied as a barrier.	
Grandpa Gus's Natural Rodent Repellent	The <b>repellent</b> is based the active ingredient <b>peppermint oil</b> . Pour the substance on cotton balls and place them along the walls where mice have been observed. Can be used both indoors and outdoors.	~\$33,46
Earth Care Odor Removing Bag, 540 g	The product is based on natural ingredients and contains a <b>blend of minerals</b> . Intended for removing the smells of dead rodents, urine, and feces. A bag covers 100 square feet and the smell is gone within a day.	~\$46,41
Air Ionizers	<b>Air ionizers</b> recommended being used as a supplementary measure to eliminate the smell of dead rodents.	~\$52,12
LabChem LC101601 Acetic Acid, 500 ml	Based on <b>acetic acid</b> that is one of the most effective compounds in eliminating rotten smells. Neutralizes putrid smell, be it the smell of a human or an animal decay.	~\$16.40
Professional Strength Stain & Odor Eliminator	Removes organic smells including that from rotting bodies of rodents. Contains natural <b>enzymatic bacteria</b> activated on contact with odors and stains.	~\$26,67