

## How to Control Rodents

Rats and mice can be controlled through sanitation, rodent proofing, non-chemical and chemical means.

\*When using chemical controls, **always** follow the instructions on the label.

### Clean Up!



Prevent contact with rodents in your home and work by cleaning your environment and eliminating sources of food, e.g. store garbage in rodent-proof bins, and store food and feed in thick containers.

### Seal/Screen Up!



Clean or seal openings inside and outside of house to prevent rodent entry.



### Trap Up!



Trap rodents in and outside of home and business to reduce rodent population.

### Bait Up!



Use rodenticide\* in bait stations, to kill and reduce rodent population.

# “ Prevent Rodent Infestation Protect Your Food & Health ”



# BE AWARE



## Beware of RODENTS

Contact us for more information

 [www.bahfsabahamas.com](http://www.bahfsabahamas.com)

 (242) 603-3260

 #99 Crawford Street



**Food Safety & Quality Unit  
Bahamas Agricultural Health & Food  
Safety Authority**



## WHAT ARE RODENTS?

Rodents are animals characterized by upper and lower pairs of ever-growing rootless incisor teeth. These animals includes rats and mice, and are considered to be dangerous pests which have the capacity to spread disease, cause loss of food and structural damage.

## COMMON RODENTS OF CONCERN



HOUSE MOUSE



ROOF RAT



NORWAY RAT

## FOOD SAFETY AND HEALTH CONCERNS

Rodents can spread several diseases which will cause problems to your health, or even lead to **death**.



Where do rats live?  
Inside and Outside

### Outside:

- Under rocks in gardens and backyards, bushes and tall grasses that are not trimmed;
- In and around garbage left on the ground;
- In vehicles, appliances, and furniture;
- Under piles of wood/lumber not being used often;
- In trees.

### Inside:

- Behind or under furniture, shower stalls, cupboards, counters, stoves and other large appliances;
- Where items are stored undisturbed (e.g. paper, cloth);
- Wall and roof spaces.

## SIGNS OF RODENT ACTIVITY

- Bite marks on food, packaging, wiring or building structures
- Urine smell
- Droppings/faeces
- Foot prints
- Smear marks
- Burrows/rat holes



## GENERAL BEHAVIOUR

- Normally nocturnal
- Tend to fear or avoid new objects
- Generally move along same pathway
- May hoard their food
- Tend to run along the bottom of walls

## Some Illnesses Spread by Rodents

- Leptospirosis
- Hemorrhagic Fever
- Rat Bite Fever
- Plague
- Salmonellosis

This spread results from the movement of rodents in filthy environments such as garbage, sewers and other dirty places, then directly infecting persons or contaminating our food.

Diseases can be passed through the contamination of food, food areas and utensils by rodent urine, droppings and hair. Other means of spread can be from rodent bites and their fleas.