



Photo: <http://www.naturephoto-cz.com/photos/andera/house-mouse-15372.jpg>

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Not a Creature Was Stirring ... Not Even a Mouse?

You know the holiday poem and, now that the holidays are upon us, you may see a rodent in your home. The house mouse (*Mus musculus*) is one of the most troublesome and economically important rodents in the United States. House mice thrive even in harsh conditions as long as they can find food, warmth and shelter. Typically found in and around homes and structures as well as in open fields. House mice consume and contaminate food meant for humans, pets, livestock, or other animals. They can transmit pathogens that cause diseases such as salmonellosis, which is a form of food poisoning. Their fur, urine and droppings can cause various illnesses, including allergies, asthma and infestations of ticks or fleas. In addition, mice can cause considerable damage to structures and property through their gnawing actions (the number one reason of unexplained house fires in the United States is attributed to rodents gnawing on wires.)

If you think you have a rodent infestation, call us immediately. (Telltale signs of rodent infestation include nests, droppings, fresh gnaw marks, or tracks.) We are rodent experts and can eliminate any infestation your home may be experiencing.

Since house mice are so small, they can gain entry into homes and other buildings much more easily than rats. As a result, house mouse infestations are probably 10 to 20 times more common than rat infestations. Effective control involves sanitation, exclusion, and population reduction. A key to successful long-term mouse control is the limitation of shelter, food and water wherever possible. Trapping works well when mice are not numerous or it can be used as a follow-up measure after a baiting program, but exclusion keeps them out in the first place. So, let us help you to identify weak points where mice may be gaining access to your home, so that they do not become pests in the first place. ■



Nesting Instinct:
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