

# Controlling Mice in Apartment Buildings

## A quick tip Guide for Tenants, Supers and Landlords

Bobby Corrigan, 2017

1. Mouse-proof the doors to the apartment building (all crevices below doors sealed down to ¼ inch (6mm). (This is the equivalent of a no. 2 pencil lying flat on its side).
2. Mouse Proof the doors to each apartment – especially any very infested apartments, and the apartments below, above, and on both sides of the infested apartment. Even a cheap rolled up dishtowel stuffed into the door base will do.
3. All utility lines where pipes enter walls, floors or ceilings into apartments should be sealed with a caulking compound (use high grade caulks that say “sealant” on the label) and then covered with an escutcheon plate (pipe Collars). Simply plugging holes with steel wool is not effective. Spray foam plugs are expensive and messy. Mice can chew through them and use the material for nesting.
4. Lines to be sealed include:
  - a. The kitchen plumbing lines beneath the cabinet
  - b. The bathroom plumbing lines beneath the cabinet
  - c. Any stove gas lines penetrating the floor for the stove
  - d. The floor heating radiator lines from below

### For the Contracted Pest Control Company:

Special attention should be paid to:

- a. Those apartments that have repeated mouse complaints
- b. Those apartments in line with the furnace room, or in the basements nearby the furnace room.
- c. If there is an infestation of mice within the apartment building, combinations of glue traps, snap traps, and baits installed throughout the apartment complex are most effective for permanent control of mice. Simply placing a few glue traps or bait boxes in the basement, or in only the apartments with complaints will do little to eliminate an established infestation from the building on a long term basis.
- d. If baits are used, they cannot be accessible to any children or pets at any time. Block baits and soft bait sachets installed inside a small tamper-resistant bait station is the preferred method of baiting
- e. Mice living in appliances and furniture must be evicted and nests and droppings removed. This can be done by dismantling appliances and flushing out the rodents. The work space should be encircled with glue boards to catch the mice as they try to escape.

### For Tenants

- a. Mice love having their homes and families (10 mice per family unit) in cluttered rooms, closets and cabinets. Overlooked cardboard boxes stored in out of sight; out of mind areas are where baby mice will be born. Exterminators can do little to eliminate mice hiding in the clutter of untidy closets and cabinets.
- b. A mouse only needs one crumb of food each night to survive. Do not leave any pet food (especially cat food) out overnight. Try to clean up any small spills, especially around the nooks of the stove (top of stove must be lifted and cleaned), refrigerator, dishwasher, and beneath and around any living room chairs and couches.
- c. Do not attempt to control mice alone. Work with your property manager, maintenance, and the building’s exterminator.
- d. If mice are seen regularly on the top of the stove or scurrying below couches, tell the building management where you are seeing the mice.