



Rats Inside Food Facilities

Eliminate Them with Good Trapping Tactics

When faced with rats infesting inside food facilities, use traps not rodenticides whenever practical. With traps you avoid odor problems (and dead rats can generate significant odors), blow flies and other scavenger insects, and potential disease issues when rodents die inside walls and equipment. You also eliminate the risk of food contamination from translocated rodent bait, and with traps you can see immediately if your control efforts were successful. Snap traps are the best choice to quickly knock down a rat infestation. Multi-catch (automatic) traps only work against mice, and glue traps rarely work well against rats.

Snap Trap Guidelines

In food preparation areas or public areas place traps inside stations. The stations do not need to be tamper-resistant; they can be plastic or cardboard, just so the trapped rats will be out of public view and any blood, urine, hair, etc. will be trapped inside. In other areas, you can use traps without stations. Concentrate the traps in areas where you see rat droppings, feeding damage, and other indications of rodent activity, and along rodent runs. Check drop ceilings for rat activity and place traps as needed. Use large numbers of traps; it is always better to overestimate the number needed rather than using too few and creating a population of "trap shy" rats.

Remember, rats are neophobic—they fear new objects—so leave the traps unset for up to a week so that they can get used to them. Also, avoid setting traps directly on rat runs or right in front of rat holes where the rats will be spooked. Instead, offset them 6 inches or so off of their normal travel route. Traps that have captured rats are often more effective than new traps.

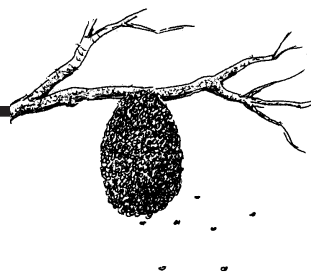


Today's snap traps are often designed to fit snugly inside stations

Baited Traps

In food facilities, never use baits formulated with potential food allergens such as peanut butter. Bell Labs now makes a rat attractant gel called Provoke™ for use on traps in food plants and similar sites. Provoke™ is non-toxic and hypoallergenic. J.F. Oakes sells a similar bait called Pro-Pest® Rat & Mouse Lure. If using "piece baits" such as crackers or candy, tie the bait to the trigger with floss.

Public Health Issues



Disease or Illness¹

Allergy	cockroaches, fleas, house dust mites, house mice
Asthma	cockroaches, fleas, house dust mites, house mice
Cryptococcosis	pigeons, starlings
Encephalitis	mosquitoes
Hantavirus	deer mice
Histoplasmosis	bats, blackbirds, pigeons, starlings, other birds
Lyme disease	blacklegged ticks
Rabies	bats, feral cats/dogs, foxes, raccoons, skunks, other wildlife
Rocky Mountain spotted fever	American dog ticks, Rocky Mountain wood ticks
Food poisoning	house flies, blow flies, bottle flies, cockroaches, birds, mice, rats
Food contamination	stored product pests, cockroaches, rodents, various others

Bite or Sting

Anaphylactic shock	bees, wasps, hornets, fire ants
Mass sting potential	honey bees (esp. Africanized), social wasps (hornets, paper wasps, yellowjackets), bumble bees, fire ants, harvester ants
Solitary stingers	carpenter bees, cicada killers, mud daubers, scorpions, velvet ants
Venomous species	aggressive house spiders, bark scorpions, black widow spiders, brown spiders (including brown recluse), poisonous snakes, yellow sac spiders
Blood suckers	bed bugs, black flies, biting midges, bloodsucking conenoses, chiggers, deer flies, fleas, fowl mites, horse flies, mosquitoes, stable flies, ticks, tropical rat mites
Primarily solitary biters	ants (some species), giant centipedes, masked hunters (kissing bugs), rats, spiders, thrips
Parasite transmitters	fleas (tapeworm), raccoons (roundworm)

Quality of Life

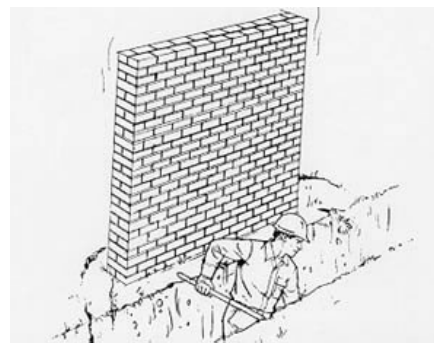
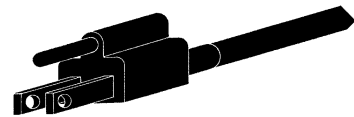
Social stigma	bed bugs, cockroaches, fleas, flies, mice, rats
Fear	bees, centipedes, mice, rats, snakes, spiders, wasps

^{1/} Some experts believe there is the potential for an outbreak in the U.S. of other pest-related diseases, especially if warming trends continue. Examples include dengue fever from the Asian tiger mosquito, plague moving into commensal rodents from wild rodents in the southwest, malaria, and expanded encephalitis outbreaks.

Avoid These Four Construction Site Hazards

Technicians face special hazards beyond the risk of termiticide exposure when doing termite pretreatments on construction sites. There are more workers killed in construction than in any other major industrial sector, double the number in manufacturing, for example. The injury rate in construction is nearly 40 percent higher than the rate for private industry as a whole. Here are recommendations to avoid the four categories of construction site hazards posing the most risk to termite pretreat technicians:

- 1. Electric Shock.** Use 3-wire extension cords designated for hard or extra hard use and equipped with strain relief. Inspect cords and power tools for damage before use. Do not remove ground prong from cords or tools or use two prong adapters, and make sure all tools are properly grounded and double insulated. Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Be alert for overhead powerlines and buried power line indicators.
- 2. Falls.** Always be alert to the risk of a fall, which is the leading cause of fatalities on construction sites. Stay away from unprotected sides and edges and floor holes, and unguarded protruding steel reinforcing bars (rebars), which can impale you if you happen to fall on them. Follow safe ladder practices whenever using a ladder on the site.
- 3. Struck-By.** Approximately 75 percent of struck-by fatalities involve heavy equipment, such as trucks or cranes. Stay alert to avoid being pinned between construction vehicles and walls or being struck by swinging backhoes. Wear a hardhat to protect against objects falling from above, and wear safety glasses to protect yourself from flying objects from power tools, pulling, and prying. Stay away from masonry walls that are under construction, which often collapse and cause injuries to those working below them.
- 4. Trenches and Excavation.** Be very careful of cave-ins when working in trenches. Trenches are often unstable, and even surprisingly shallow trenches, only 3 feet or so, can immobilize you or even suffocate you after a cave-in if you are trapped head down. Deeper trenches can crush you. Also be alert to dangers when working next to a wall inside excavations. In both cases, do not work in the immediate area if you see excavated material (spoils) piled less than 2 feet from the edge of the trench or wall.



OSHA illustration shows a masonry wall which can fall and strike worker and a worker inside an unshored trench

German Cockroach Review

Part 2: Ten Reasons Cockroach Control Fails in Apartments

If your service fails to control German cockroaches in an apartment building it is probably because of one or more of the following mistakes:

1. *Not identifying and treating "focus apartments."* These apartment units have high cockroach populations that keep infesting the units next door, above, and below. Focus apartments typically are cluttered, have poor sanitation, and refuse regular service.



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2. *Not getting into every apartment.* Missed apartments often turn into focus apartments.

3. *Not rescheduling problem apartments.* When cockroach populations become large, service needs to be repeated every few weeks to succeed.

4. *Not rescheduling missed service.* Apartments can't simply be skipped.

5. *Poor cooperation from residents.* Cooperation means allowing access, preparing for service as directed, upgrading sanitation, and reducing clutter.

6. *Poor cooperation from management.* Property management has to cooperate by enforcing resident compliance, providing access (keys and cooperation), reporting problems, and correcting structural deficiencies.

7. *Inadequate trash management.* Trash chutes, compactors, and trash rooms can generate large numbers of cockroaches if not managed properly.

8. *Not applying insecticides effectively.* Whether baits, liquids, dusts, or other formulations, cockroach insecticides need to be applied in cracks, crevices, voids, and other sites where German cockroaches are aggregating.

9. *Not keeping good records.* Good recordkeeping allows you to identify problem areas and forecast trends for better control, and to support further efforts to ensure resident compliance.

10. *Not providing alternative treatments for ill residents.* Often times apartments with ill or infirm residents are simply skipped. These units can turn into focus units without some level of service.

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