

House Mouse & Deer Mouse

Scientific Name: *Mus domesticus*/*Peromyscus maniculatus*



House Mouse



Deer Mouse

Identification Tips:

<i>Color</i>	House mouse: Brownish to dark gray above with lighter gray or cream color underneath (never white). Deer mouse: pale grayish-buff to reddish brown above and white underneath
<i>Legs</i>	4
<i>Size</i>	House mouse: approximately 2 ½ to 3 ½ inches with tail length of 2 ¾ inches to 4 inches. Deer mouse: 2 ¾ to 4 inches with tail length of 2 to 5 inches
<i>Identifying Characteristics</i>	House mouse: moderately large ears; short, broad feet; small eyes; nearly hairless tail; pointed muzzle. In comparison to the house mouse, deer mice have larger eyes and ears, deemed to be better-looking, and lack the mousy odor

Characteristics of this rodent:

- Droppings average ¼ inch in size, rod-shaped and with pointed ends. Fresh droppings are dark and soft, while older droppings may be dull and hard. Can average about 50 droppings per day
- Prolific breeders. Under ideal conditions, the each female house mouse may produce as many as ten litters (about 50 young) in a year. They are sexually mature in little over a month. The female deer mouse can produce 2 to 4 litters or more per year, with 3 to 5 per litter
- Mice are very social, but are territorial. They can show aggression to those that enter their territory. They will travel over their territory daily, which consists of no more than 30 feet from their nesting site. They do not fear new objects in their environment and will explore their curiosity
- Have poor vision and are color blind. They have keen sense of smell, taste, touch and hearing, as well as a great sense of balance
- The house mouse searches for food high in fat and protein. This includes lard, butter, nuts, bacon, meats, sweets, and chocolate. Mice get most of their water from the food they consume, but will drink if water is readily available. The deer mouse prefers seeds, nuts, acorns, fruits, insects, insect larvae, fungi, and possibly some green vegetation
- Other attributes: great jumpers; can run up walls if surface is rough; can squeeze into openings ¼ inch in size; capable swimmers; can survive a constant 23 degrees Fahrenheit for 10 generations
- One pair of mice can eat 4 pounds of food, deposit about 18,000 droppings, and void about 12 ounces of urine over a 6 month period of time. They contaminate 10 times the amount of food compared to what they eat

- Mice are so common that the government allows a certain amount of rodent hairs and sometimes droppings in food commodities for human consumption

Is this rodent harmful to me?

ABSOLUTELY! The house mouse and their parasites have been implicated in transmitting the following diseases: salmonella food poisoning; rickettsial pox; meningitis; Weil's disease; rat-bite fever; ray fungus; ringworm; and dermatitis. The deer mouse is the primary source of hantavirus which cause Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS). Fortunately, the aforementioned is not prominent in the United States.



POINTED

HOUSE MOUSE DROPPINGS
Average length 1/4" (6 mm)

Why are they in my structure?

Unfortunately, if mice want to enter your structure, they will find a 1/4 inch or better gap and enter or gnaw their way inside. It is best to seal as many gaps outside as possible to try to deter their entrance. If you hear scratching, make a noise and if the scratching stops as to listen to what the noise was, it is most likely mice. Also, be on the lookout for droppings, items out of place (I knew I had a chocolate bar on the countertop), pet excitement, and a mousy odor to name a few as evidence of mice in your dwelling.

Can I treat the problem myself?

Due to the complexity of this rodent and the medical concerns of disease or virus transmission, it has been our experience that most homeowners are unwilling and unsuccessful at properly eliminating this problem. Also, homeowners often utilize products that are ineffective or apply them not in accordance with labeling and state laws. Please remember that products may be harmful to you and your family if they are misused or misapplied.

What can Apex do for me?

An Apex representative will spend time interviewing the homeowner in order to ascertain where the presence of mice is located. That being said, Apex can provide you with a one-time application or a preventative maintenance plan.

One-Time Treatment: An interview with the homeowner is conducted along with a detailed inspection of both the inside and outside of the structure. Time is spent determining the most effective application and then a targeted application of product is made to rid your home or surroundings of these unwanted guests. Repair work may be required to the structure and will be discussed by your technician. A 30-day guarantee is provided.

Pest Prevention Plan: Due to the difficulty in controlling this rodent, Apex recommends monthly inspections and treatments to be performed to keep your dwelling pest and rodent free year around. Free service calls are provided whenever a pest or rodent outbreak occurs. Being that a variety of other general insect problems are covered, this is a cost effective way to maintain the integrity of your home and is the **recommended treatment of Apex.**

Is the treatment safe for my children and pets?

Since 1969, Apex has always operated with one goal in mind: "The safety of people, pets, places, and the environment is our first concern." Therefore, we will utilize crack and crevice and spot applications, baits, monitors, habitat modification recommendations, and natural products as a method of treatment when possible. When conventional treatments are required, our licensed technicians are trained to apply the products so as to not pose a problem to people or their pets. All conventional products are EPA registered and our technician will advise you of any necessary precautions.



What should I do now?

Call our office at 1-800-MUG-A-BUG (1-800-684-2284) to discuss your problem with a knowledgeable customer service representative. Otherwise, sign up for a free online quote today!

Images courtesy of University of Nebraska-Lincoln (<http://lancaster.unl.edu/>)

<http://www.apexpestcontrol.net/> **1-800-MUG-A-BUG**

