

7 MOUSE TRAP MISTAKES YOU'RE MAKING



Here are seven common mouse-trapping errors people make, and, more importantly, seven brilliantly simple and effective strategies that you should be using instead. Try them, and see how to get rid of mice swiftly and easily.

1. YOU RUIN THE BAIT

Mice can detect your scent on traps you've handled and may then stay away from them. To prevent that, wear gloves when handling mouse trap bait and setting mouse traps. Gloves used for food preparation, health care, or washing dishes all work well.

2. YOU USE THE WRONG BAIT

Forget the old cartoon image of mice eating cheese. Rodents are primarily nut and seed eaters, so they are strongly attracted to foods such as peanut butter or hazelnut spread. Their hunger for calories also entices them to try chocolate.

When temperatures drop outside, mice come inside and focus on building nests. You can lure them to mouse traps with materials such as cotton balls, dental floss, yarn, and twine. If using snap traps, wrap the fibers around the mouse trap's trigger to force mice to pull or gnaw on the bait, springing the trap.

3. YOU USE TOO MUCH BAIT

When you load up mouse traps with a lot of bait, the pests can steal some of it without getting caught in the trap. A pea-size amount of mouse trap bait is just right - enough to attract mice, but not so much that they can eat it without springing the trap.

4. YOU EXPECT INSTANT RESULTS

Mice are naturally wary of new objects in their surroundings. You can acclimate them by putting out baited but unset mouse traps for a few days. Once you see the mice taking the bait, you know that the traps are in the right place and that the pests will return to them. Then it's time to set the traps.



5. YOU SET THE TRAP IN THE WRONG PLACE

It's easy to place mouse traps in the wrong place - don't make that error. Because of their innate fear of open areas, mice scurry around the perimeter of rooms and the dark recesses of your home, close to the walls, where their whiskers help them navigate.

To catch pests where they are active, place traps along walls where they travel. The bait and trigger end of the mouse traps should be facing the wall so that mice will be tempted to explore them rather than walk around them. Whenever possible, place mouse traps in concealed areas, such as the backs of cabinets or behind your stove (pull out the drawer beneath the oven for easy access).

6. YOU USE TOO FEW MOUSE TRAPS

Mice reproduce fast and furiously - they can produce six to seven babies in a litter as quickly as every 21 days or so. So you may not realize (or want to think about!) how many of them are in your house, but you can be almost certain there is more than one. To stop an invasion of mice, you need more than a few mouse traps to eliminate the problem quickly. The most effective strategy is to place one mouse trap every 2 to 3 feet along the wall where you've seen signs of activity.

7. YOU START SLOW

Studies show that more mice are caught on the first night you set traps in your home than on any subsequent night. Start your campaign to get rid of mice by setting traps wherever you see signs of their activity. Use several traps and a few types of bait to be sure your opening night is a rousing success.