

Mouse/rat pest changes and tips

The Village of Chester, like most other places in Nova Scotia has a population of mice and rats. Mice and rats are carriers of disease and can damage property and are something you want to discourage from being around your home or property.

In an effort to better address concerns, over the next month the Village will be adding more bait stations around the Village, and repositioning many of the existing ones.

It's not always easy to cope with rat and mouse populations, and issues can become worse in the fall and winter months as the creatures seek warmer sites to live. If your home will be vacant during the winter months, you may be especially vulnerable to pests if no one is monitoring or managing your property.

Controlling rodents takes a shared approach where home, business, and land-owners do what they can to help control the mouse/rat population.

How can you help?

Prevention is key in controlling rats and mice problems in your home, business, and community.

Remove sources of food by securing garbage in containers with tight-fitting lids. If you can, avoid placing fatty or oily food waste, eggs, or milk products in the composter (for example, some people store these items in their freezer, and only place them in their composter on pick-up day). Eliminate or manage any outside feeding stations for pets, birds, or other wildlife.

Make your home less appealing to rodents by removing nesting sites in unused clutter around your house and garage. Consider cutting tall grass and weeds back from your house and raise any woodpiles about 30 centimetres (one foot) off the ground and place them away from your house.

To keep rodents out of your home, the first line of defence is to get rid of easy entry points. Use metal weather stripping under doors, and weather strip windows. Patch cracks in foundations; stuff steel wool around pipes before

caulking or plastering; cover dryer vents, attic vents, and soffits with fine mesh metal screening.

If you already have rats or mice in your home or yard, there are several options for control. Health Canada has an excellent explanation for various types of traps, electronic traps, ultrasonic devices, and Pesticides. Further information can be found on their website at <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/pest-control-tips/rats-mice.html>

Of course, hiring the services of a professional pest control company is always an option, and an on-line search will provide a list of pest control companies that serve the Chester area.

If you find a dead rat or mouse on your property, you can put the carcass in your compost/green bin for waste collection. Be sure to wear protective gloves or using an implement (for example, a shovel).