

# Mice

## Why are Mice a Public Health Risk?

- Mice can carry ticks and fleas.
- Mice contaminate food, food packaging, and surfaces in a business.
- People can get sick by coming into contact with mice urine, feces, saliva, and nesting materials while cleaning or breathing in airborne particles.
- Improper cleaning of mice droppings and urine can lead to illness.

### Mice Can Transmit the Following Diseases:

- Hanta Virus
- Salmonellosis
- Tapeworms
- Plague



Pest droppings photo credit:  
<http://blogs.cornell.edu/nysipm/tag/droppings/>

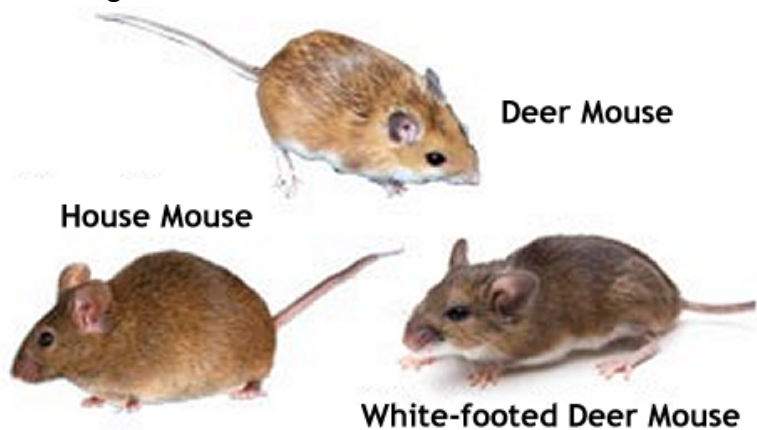
## Identification

### Three common mice found in Minnesota:

**House Mouse-** Most commonly found. Round shape, gray, tan brown with lighter belly. Body is 2.5 to 3.75 inches long.

**Deer Mouse-** Gray or brown with white underbelly and small legs. Body is 2 to 3.5 inches long. Tail is as long as body and has a color difference between the top and bottom.

**White-footed Deer Mouse-** Gray/brown color with white belly and legs, larger hind legs, bicolored tail. Body is 3 to 4 inches long.




## Why are Mice a Problem?

- Mice can cause property damage by gnawing on wires, furniture, and clothing.
- Mice are highly adaptable. They can be found in multiple environments and building types.
- Mice reproduce very quickly. Adult females can have up to 30 to 35 offspring per year.
- Mice urinate, poop and gnaw as they move throughout the building or house. An average mouse can produce 50 droppings a day.
- Mice walk over and contaminate food surfaces.
- Mice can squeeze through holes 1/4 of an inch or bigger, jump 12 inches and are great climbers.
- Mice often come into buildings and houses when temperatures get colder and there is little food outside.

Photo credit: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/diseasecontrol/hantavirus/cases.aspx>

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**Call a professional extermination company if you suspect there are mice within your facility.**

**Watch for mouse activity as seasons change.**

## Additional Resources

<https://www.plunketts.net/pest-identification/rodents/mice/>

<https://www.schoolipm.umn.edu/>

<https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/pest-management/docs/training-manuals/AG1156.pdf>

<https://www.minnesotawildanimalmanagement.com/mice-mouse-rodent-control-removal-minneapolis-mn-part-1/>

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact 311 (outside Minneapolis call 612-673-3000) or email [Minneapolis311@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Minneapolis311@minneapolismn.gov)  
Ask to speak with a health inspector.

People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users can call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

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612-673-2800.

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## Signs of Infestation

- Mouse droppings throughout facility.
- Urine staining (use a blacklight for better visibility).
- Gnawed food packaging (look for spilled foods) and/or doorways.
- Mouse tracks in areas with heavy debris, dust, or mud.
- Rub marks on walls in heavily traveled areas.
- Musty, pungent odor.

## Prevention

### Exterior

- Seal all holes or gaps with areas larger than 1/4 inch on outside of buildings.
- Create a 3-foot clearing around exterior walls of building. Adding a gravel strip may help.
- Maintain outdoor areas clean and free of clutter.
- Keep lids to disposal bins closed.
- Keep bushes and shrubbery trimmed.

### Interior

- Know how to spot the signs of mouse activity and monitor any troublesome areas.
- Remove cardboard and clutter from rooms to avoid harborage conditions.
- Maintain areas free of food debris
- Seal all electrical conduits, heating ducts, pipes, and pipe chases.
- Install door sweeps and other devices to seal any holes or cracks leading to outside.
- Provide routine maintenance and spot checks to all areas of building to prevent mice getting in.
- Work with pest control company to determine a regular schedule that fits your building.