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SAFE HARBOR NEWSLETTER

Protect Your Home from Rodent Intrusion: Tips for Prevention and Action

As the weather cools and autumn settles in, many homeowners begin to notice unwanted guests making their way into their homes—**rodents**. Mice and rats are not only an inconvenience, but they can also pose health risks and cause significant damage to your property. In this month's newsletter, we're diving into the causes of rodent intrusion and offering simple yet effective solutions to keep your home safe and rodent-free.

Why Are Rodents Invading Your Home?

Rodents, like mice and rats, seek warmth, food, and shelter when the weather turns colder. Homes provide the perfect environment for them, offering access to food sources, nesting areas, and protection from predators. Some of the most common reasons for rodent intrusion include:

1. **Cracks and Gaps:** Rodents can squeeze through tiny openings as small as a quarter of an inch.
2. **Food Sources:** If food is left out or improperly stored, rodents will quickly find it.
3. **Lack of Maintenance:** Leaky pipes, broken vents, or unsealed entry points offer easy access to pests.

Signs of Rodent Intrusion

It’s important to recognize the early signs of rodent activity before the problem becomes worse. Look for:

- **Droppings:** Tiny, dark pellets often found near food sources or along walls. Check unfinished areas in your basement or crawlspaces. Look along the top of the foundation.
- **Gnaw Marks:** Rodents often chew on wires, insulation, or even furniture to keep their teeth sharp.
- **Brown Tracking:** Rodents leave evidence of there preferred travel routes. This will look like a brown or orange staining on top of pipes and wires that they travel on or over. Its easy to spot once you know what you're looking for.
- **Scratching Noises:** If you hear scratching or scurrying sounds at night, especially in walls or attics, this is a likely sign of rodents.
- **Nests or Burrows:** Rodents use materials like paper, fabric, or insulation to build nests in secluded areas. This will typically be found in attic or basement insulation.

If you notice any of these signs, it's time to take action! Don't wait until the small problem becomes an infestation.

How to Prevent Rodent Intrusion

Here are some essential tips to help keep rodents out of your home:

1. **Seal Entry Points:** Inspect the exterior of your home for cracks, gaps, or holes. Seal these with caulk, steel wool, or expandable foam. Pay attention to areas around doors, windows, pipes, and vents.
2. **Store Food Properly:** Always store food in airtight containers and be sure to clean up crumbs or spills immediately. Don't forget to empty trash cans regularly and store them in sealed containers.
3. **Trim Trees and Bushes:** Rodents can climb trees and shrubs to access your home. Trim branches that hang close to windows or roofs to make it more difficult for rodents to enter.
4. **Maintain a Clean Home:** Regularly clean up areas where food is prepared, especially in kitchens and dining rooms. Rodents are attracted to crumbs, grease, and leftovers.
5. **Use Natural Deterrents:** If you prefer a non-toxic approach, consider using peppermint oil, bay leaves, or even ultrasonic devices to repel rodents.

What to Do if You Have a Rodent Problem

If you've already encountered a rodent infestation, here's what you can do:

- **Call a Professional:** A pest control expert will assess your situation and implement effective rodent control measures.
- **Set Traps:** If you prefer to tackle the problem yourself, traps can help capture rodents. Always be cautious when handling traps and use them responsibly to avoid harm to pets or children.
- **Consider Rodent Baits:** While traps are an option, rodent baits may be necessary for more severe infestations. Be sure to use them safely and follow all directions on the packaging.

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Conclusion

Preventing rodent intrusion is all about being proactive. By sealing entry points, storing food properly, and maintaining a clean home, you can significantly reduce the risk of a rodent problem. But if you do find yourself dealing with rodent infestation, don't hesitate to reach out to a pest control professional for assistance.

Stay safe, warm, and rodent-free this season!

Best Regards,

The Safe Harbor Team

Call us for a rodent inspection today! We can identify and solve your problem.