

Understanding Rodent Behavior

An effective baiting strategy has significantly reduced effectiveness if you're baiting for one species of rodent but another commensal rodent is there instead. Learn about rodent behavior for each of the three major types of commensal rodents: house mouse, roof rat and Norway rat.

House Mice

These rodents will nest high and low, virtually everywhere. Your inspection and subsequent treatment must include every nook, cranny and void in the account. Pay particular attention to warm places because mice are susceptible to hypothermia. See the chart for examples of commonly overlooked spots where mice might live.



Overlooked Mice Harborage
Suspended ceilings – Especially those quite a distance from food sources.
Soil subsidence voids under concrete slab floors – Entry points to these voids include expansion joints (including those in the middle of the room), around pillars or posts and cracked concrete.
Main electrical panels – Have conduits to every part of the building and these panels provide a warm place for mice. Always have an electrician open these and approve of everything you want to do here.



Mice territories are much smaller than rat territories. These areas are only as large as they need to be to include a food source and a nesting site. It's essential to find food sources

and nesting sites, and then place control materials on runways between the two. Their nests and runways may be in tight spaces that do not lend themselves to the use of large bait stations. Aegis mouse bait stations with Generation mini blocks can be placed in small spaces or easily secured to precarious runways with wire or tape.

Roof Rats

These rodents spend most of their time in high places such as attics and soffits. Place bait on runways where they live. A battery-powered electric drill with a 1/4-inch bit and some 12-inch zip ties will enable you to get creative in securing bait stations and traps to piping and structural members of a building. Drill holes in the station, pass the zip ties through and secure the station with the entry holes aligned with the rat's runway.



Roof rats are neophobic (afraid of new things) when objects are placed in their path. Lure them into new bait stations with a familiar food placed inside the entry hole to help overcome their fear.

Rodent Lures

House Mouse	Roof Rat	Norway Rat
Peanut butter Maraschino cherries Chocolate	Orange slice candy Dates Apples	Peanut butter Apples Canned cat food

They can eat almost anything but prefer fruit in the wild. The active ingredient in Generation, BlueMax and FirstStrike is difethialone, which is extremely effective against roof rats. The bait mixture in Generation contains flavoring that appeals to roof rats, and the outstanding palatability of FirstStrike holds up to the neophobic nature of this rodent. BlueMax weatherability is demonstrated in conditions well suited to roof rats: humid and moist temperatures.

Norway Rats

This species of rodent spends most of its time in burrows dug into the earth. The best way to eliminate a Norway rat infestation is by spooning Generation or Maki pellets directly into the burrows. Do not cave in burrows because this often causes the rats to shift their focus from eating the pellets to reopening the burrow, possibly kicking out the bait in the process.

Norway rats have a strong social hierarchy in which the strongest or dominant rats get the best food, strongest mates and best places to live. This helps assure survival of the fittest. If the dominant animals are found and killed, the weaker animals are likely to relocate and take their place.

Repeat your treatments weekly until the pellets no longer disappear between service visits. Follow label dosage directions, keeping in mind there may be several rats in one burrow. Norway rats also are neophobic. Do not use block-type baits; research has found the rats will kick these 'new objects' out of the burrow more than 50 percent of the time. This may result in rodent survivors and rodenticide exposed to children and non-target animals. Pellets are best, but soft bait like FirstStrike also has been effective in burrows.

