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## RODENT GUARD Protection for your Home

A serious pest problem, mice and rats can cause significant damage and pose potential disease and health risks.


While rodent activity occurs all year long, it is more pronounced during the fall and winter months when the animals come inside where it's warm. That's why Pro-Tech Pest Control offers **Rodent Guard** as an **exclusive** service for our semi-annual customers. The **Rodent Guard** program is designed to prevent mice from becoming a problem in the home. **It should not be used as a clean out tool.**

The timing of your **Rodent Guard** protection is important and should

be performed before the first major frosts occur. If the proper materials are placed inside and around your home before a rodent harborage is established, the chances of your living in a rodent-free home improve greatly. Once mice have established a harborage inside your home, the **Rodent Guard** service may require a follow up visit to eradicate the animals completely.

The **Rodent Guard** service includes inspecting your home for rodent infestation, blocking common pest entry ways, and setting tamper resistant bait stations. Every Rodent Guard service includes a six month warranty and

is equal to the cost of one semi-annual visit. Special pricing is available for additional clean out services, which are also guaranteed.

Preventive and maintenance care via the **Rodent Guard** can save you 40-60% off the normal cost of rodent clean out services, so an ounce of prevention really is worth a pound of cure. Call us for more information and to schedule an appointment. 

## Changes in Billing Terms


Recently we have found it necessary to change our billing terms. In the past we have handled past due accounts ourselves, but the administrative complications are a significant drain on our resources. Therefore we have hired a collection agency to help us collect accounts that are more than 90 days past due.

Our new payment terms are: Net 30 days; after 30 days there is a

\$10 statement fee per month; after 90 days, all balances are transferred to a professional collection company. All costs of collection and statement fees will be the responsibility of the customer in default. Terms will also shortly be available on [Protechpestcontrol.com](http://Protechpestcontrol.com).

Thank you.  
**The Pro-Tech Team.**

## Customer Appreciation

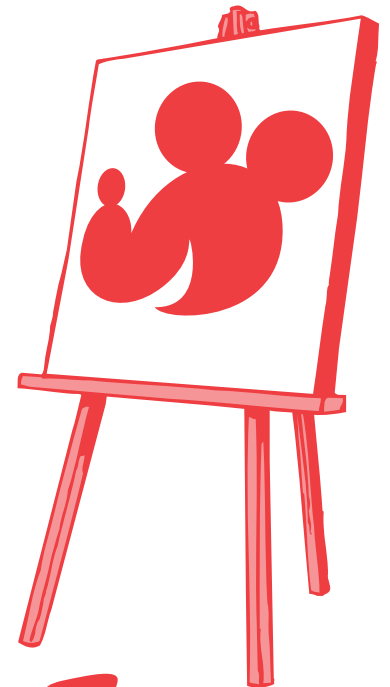
We extend a special thank you to all of our loyal semi-annual customers for their continued business through the summer. Rising energy costs have hit us all hard, and we're glad that our faithful clients continue to see the value in maintaining pest control on their properties 



## Helpful Hints:

Pest infestations occur because of favorable habitats existing in and close to your home. Eliminating these favorable habitats can prevent most common infestations and save you a lot of trouble and money. Here are a few helpful hints to make your home less attractive to pests.

- 1 Store firewood off the ground and away from the structure. Firewood is a frequent home for carpenter ants, termites, mice, spiders and snakes. Carpenter ants will forage up to 100 yards away from their nests for food, so further is always better.
- 2 Trim all trees and bushes away from the house to prevent contact with the structure. This prevents insects from bypassing the foundation treatment by using the vegetation as a bridge.
- 3 Avoid organic mulches around the foundation of the home and remove dead stumps and other rotting matter from within 50 feet of the home.
- 4 Correct any moisture problems in the house such as leaky roofs, chimney flashing, plumbing leaks, blocked gutters and poorly ventilated attics. Insects love moist wood.
- 5 Spiders are drawn to locations that offer good hunting for other insects, by switching to yellow insect lights and discouraging insects in and around your house, it becomes a less inviting environment for spiders.
- 6 By regularly removing spider webs from your house, basement and attic, you make it difficult for spiders to feed themselves and prevent reproduction.
- 7 Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left out of doors. Drainage holes that are located on the sides collect enough water for mosquitoes to breed in.
- 8 Use landscaping to eliminate standing water that collects on your property. Mosquitoes will develop in any puddle that lasts more than 4 days.



## Famous Mice

Mice are pests, and yes, we get paid to rid them from your homes, but some of them slip through the cracks. Here are a few of our favorites:

**Pinky and the Brain**  
*(The Anamaniacs)*

**Chuck E. Cheese**

**Danger Mouse**

**Fievel** *(An American Tail)*

**Itchy** *(The Simpsons)*

**Mighty Mouse**

**Savior Faire**  
*(The Tennessee Tuxedo)*

**Speedy Gonzales**

**Stuart Little**

# HANTAVIRUS: A Good Reason for Rodent Control

Hantavirus is a disease that spreads through the urine and feces of mice. The following article from the September 5, 2008 issue of the *Rocky Mountain News* shows why this health issue should be taken seriously.

*A 47-year-old man from Arapahoe County has tested positive for Hantavirus, the Tri-County Health Department reported Friday. The man, who was not identified, was hospitalized and later released. Health officials said the man was most likely exposed to Hantavirus while inspecting rodent-infested buildings on an abandoned property in eastern Arapahoe County. This is the first confirmed case this year in Tri-County's jurisdiction of Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties and the sixth Hantavirus case in Colorado, including one fatality. Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome is a rare disease that is carried by rodents, especially deer mice. People catch the disease by inhaling dust containing airborne particles from the feces, urine or saliva of deer mice. It is fatal to humans in almost half the cases. According to the health department, initial symptoms usually appear about two to three weeks after exposure and include fever, chills, headache and severe muscle pain, especially in the lower back and legs. One to five days later, symptoms include a dry cough or difficulty breathing, and can lead to respiratory failure.*

Hantavirus FAQs:

## What is hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS)?

Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) is a deadly disease caused by hantaviruses. Rodents can transmit hantaviruses through urine, droppings, or saliva. Humans can contract the disease when particles containing the virus become airborne.

## Who is at risk of contracting HPS?

Anyone who comes into contact with rodents that carry hantavirus is at risk of HPS. Rodent infestation in and around the home remains the primary risk for hantavirus exposure. Even healthy individuals are at risk for HPS infection if exposed to the virus.

## Which rodents are known to be carriers of hantavirus that cause HPS in humans?

In the United States, deer mice, cotton and rice rats (in the Southeast), and the white-footed mouse (in the Northeast), are the only known rodent carriers of hantaviruses causing HPS.

## How is HPS transmitted?

Hantavirus is transmitted by infected rodents through urine, droppings, or saliva. Individuals become infected with HPS after breathing fresh aerosolized urine, droppings, saliva, or nesting materials. Transmission can also occur when these materials are directly introduced into broken skin, the nose or the mouth. If a rodent with the virus bites someone, the virus may be spread to that person, but this type of transmission is rare.

## Can you contract HPS from other animals?

Hantaviruses that cause HPS in the United States are only known to be transmitted by certain species of rodents. HPS in the United States is not known to be transmitted by farm animals, dogs, or cats or from rodents purchased from a pet store.

## What are the recommendations for cleaning a rodent-infested area?

- Put on rubber, latex, vinyl or nitrile gloves.

- Do not stir up dust by vacuuming, sweeping, or any other means.
- Thoroughly wet contaminated areas with a bleach solution or household disinfectant.

Once everything is wet, take up contaminated materials with damp towel and then mop or sponge the area with bleach solution or household disinfectant.

Spray dead rodents with disinfectant and then double-bag along with all cleaning materials. Bury, burn, or throw out rodent in appropriate waste disposal system. (Contact your local or state health department concerning other appropriate disposal methods.)

Disinfect gloves with disinfectant or soap and water before taking them off.

After taking off the clean gloves, thoroughly wash hands with soap and water (or use a waterless alcohol-based hand rub when soap is not available).



## Pest Profile - DEER MOUSE

**Latin Name:**

Peromyscus maniculatus

**Appearance:**

The deer mouse is round and slender, ranging from 2 3/4 to 4 inches long in body length with a pointed nose and large, black, beady eyes. Its ears are large with scant fur covering them. Its body is bi-colored with a light brownish-reddish top and white underbelly and feet. The tail, if present, is short, distinctly bi-colored (dark on top and light on bottom), covered with short, fine hairs, and two to five inches in length.



**Habit:**

This small rodent nests in hollow logs, tree holes, and under piles of stones or logs. Most commonly associated with prairies or other rural, bushy or wooded areas, it avoids humans if indoors, preferring attics, basements, or crawl spaces. Next to the house mouse, the deer mouse is the most common small mammal in North America, with a wide distribution.

**Diet:**

The deer mouse is omnivorous, but prefers seeds, nuts, small fruits and berries, insects, centipedes, and the subterranean fungus, Endogone.

**Reproduction:**

Reaching sexual maturity in as little as five weeks, the rodent will produce two to four litters a year, usually during warm months. Typical litters contain three to five individuals, but may have as many as eight. Typically deer mice live two to twenty-four months, but can live as long as eight years in captivity.

