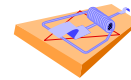


**Conduct this protocol only in homes  
with rodent activity  
and if child is allergic to rodents.**



**Key Messages:**

- The urine and perhaps hair of rodents, such as mice and rats, contain allergens that can make asthma worse.
- Reducing exposure to rodent allergens is an important strategy in helping to control asthma. This can be done in two ways:
  - Prevent rodents from entering the house.
  - Remove rodent attractants such as food, garbage, and clutter from both inside & outside of the home.

**CAS/CHW Actions:**

- Assess prior education received by client and client's knowledge.
- Ask client if they have seen any evidence of rodent activity.
- Look for evidence of rodent activity (e.g. droppings in crawl spaces, under sinks).
- If rodent activity is present, record in database visit encounter.
- Assess for client's willingness to change behavior by eliminating rodent attractants.

If the participant is a Housing Authority tenant:

- Refer the SHA tenants to the pest control supervisor at SHA-Impact Property Services. If the participant is a KCHA tenant, have them check with the building manager. If there is no resolution to their problem in a timely manner, consult with the project manager.

If the client is a tenant:

- Encourage the client to ask the landlord to make some necessary changes as needed, such as:
  - Repair of large gaps and holes, repair of broken sewer pipes, and installation of screening
  - Remove outdoor rodent hiding and nesting places by cutting back bushes and removing yard debris. Rats often like to hide in ivy.
  - Eliminate outdoor rodent attractants such as open garbage or compost storage, food debris, and pet dung.
  - Install door sweeps or door shoes to block gaps at the bottom of doors, if necessary.
- Consult the project manager about a support letter from the landlord requesting specific actions, if the tenant so desires.
- Assist client in excluding rodents from the home and in setting up rodent traps.

### **CAS/CHW Future Visits: Assessment**

- Ask clients if they have seen any evidence of rodent activity.
  - If none, reinforce successful efforts in controlling rodent access & limiting attraction of rodents.
  - If present, record in database visit encounter.
- Look for evidence of rodent activity (e.g. droppings in crawl spaces, under sinks). If present, record in tracking system.
- If rodents are still present, review protocol above. If it has been successfully implemented, discuss referral to pest consultant with project manager.

### **Recommended Client Actions:**

The following actions can help prevent a rodent problem from developing or recurring:

- Keep food away from rodents so they are not attracted to the home.
- Store food in sealed containers.
- Keep garbage in closed containers.
- Clean up dishes after use or place them in soapy water.

- Clean up food spills and crumbs immediately.
- Remove rodent indoor hiding places such as empty boxes, cans, bottles, bags, and newspapers.
- Remove outdoor rodent hiding and nesting places by cutting back bushes and removing yard debris. Rats often like to hide in ivy.
- Eliminate outdoor rodent attractants such as open garbage or compost storage, food debris, pet dung.

### **Background Information:**

- Rodents are a persistent problem for Garden Communities (low-income housing) and may be found in other housing throughout Seattle.
- Rodents, especially mice, are found in homes more often during colder months, when they come inside to stay warm.

### **□ HOW TO ASSIST CLIENTS TO EXCLUDE RODENTS FROM THE HOME:**

- Use clean steel wool, foam and mesh, or other appropriate materials to plug holes or gaps greater than ¼ inch diameter between construction materials and pipes or holes in walls.
- Install screens on vents that provide entry into the home (e.g. dryer vents, fan vents). Cover sharp edges of screening mesh with duct tape.
- Help client set up rodent traps.

### **□ HOW TO SET UP RODENT TRAPS:**

- Use glue boards in accessible areas.
- Clients may place snap traps in crawl spaces or other areas that are inaccessible to children.
- Apply bait such as peanut butter to traps.
- Place traps perpendicular to the wall, with bait end of trap against the wall.
- In areas with known rodent activity, 5-10 traps should be deployed. Place traps closely together, 3 traps per foot, in a row so that the rodents would have to step on the traps.

- Where rodent activity is not well known, traps can be spaced 10 to 20 ft. apart along suspected runways.

Upon retrieval, traps should be handled with gloves, sealed in plastic bags and disposed of in sealed garbage cans.

**Supplies:**

- Flashlight and tools for CAS use
- Steel wool
- Foam
- Mesh
- Vent screens
- Traps: glue and snap types

**Referrals:**

- Landlord as indicated
- Pest consultant as indicated.
- In cases of extreme infestation, where the above methods fail, CAS/CHW should consult with the project manager about obtaining help from a pest consultant.

**Educational Materials:**

- “Rodents”; Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
- “Unwanted: Rats are Dangerous” Public Health – Seattle & King County
  - available in English, Spanish & Vietnamese