

# Notice: Mouse Infestation

**Enclosed in this packet are helpful tips in dealing with mice, and ways to talk to management about ongoing infestation problems.**

The Tenant Rights Committee is collecting documentation of any and every unit that is experiencing problems with mice. As winter approaches, the mice infestation will only get worse. Even if you don't think you have an infestation in your unit, it is extremely important to check!

If you have seen a mouse, or suspect you have mice in your unit, please do the following:

1. Document any evidence of a mouse. Take notes and photos, and include the date you first saw them.
2. Email Greg at [tilsner@reeliving.com](mailto:tilsner@reeliving.com) to request pest control to come out and take care of the problem. Contacting him by **email** is key, so that both you and Greg have evidence of the maintenance request.
3. Email the documentation to the Tenant Rights Committee at [re.arismendez@gmail.com](mailto:re.arismendez@gmail.com) so we can keep track of all of the households having maintenance and infestation issues.
4. If you can't email for any reason, please bring physical documentation to both Greg's office and to Raquel in unit 205, or Bill in unit 510.

Some important things to note about mice:

- **Mice will eat your pet's food.** Please don't leave pet food sitting out. Put the food in a sealed container immediately after your pet is done eating.
- **Mice can chew through cardboard and certain plastics.** Please keep all food in tightly-sealed containers.
- **Mice can easily climb on most surfaces.** Keeping food in high-up cabinets or on top of the fridge will not deter them.
- Mice are quick learners! **They will learn to navigate around different kinds of traps,** and will avoid food that kills other members of their mice family.
- Baby mice grow up fast! One adult mouse can birth a litter of 6 to 12 every couple months, and the babies reach full maturity in 30 days. If you see one mouse, **expect there's at least 12 more** back at the nest.
- **Mice can squeeze through any opening at least 1/4in wide.** Take note of every hole and crack in your unit.
- If you see droppings, mice are nesting very close by. **Move furniture around to check for mouse droppings underneath.**
- If mice are cut off from one unit, they will travel and nest in another.
- Mice will nest in **both clean and dirty** apartments.
- More tips and info can be found at: [www.wikihow.com/Get-Rid-of-Mice-Fast](http://www.wikihow.com/Get-Rid-of-Mice-Fast)

## **HOW TO ADDRESS A MOUSE PROBLEM**

When you want to get rid of mice, you may find you are up against a formidable foe. Getting rid of mice is important in maintaining the cleanliness and well being of your home. Ever pour a bowl of cereal and find droppings amongst the flakes? Not all mouse infestations are as dramatic as that but there comes a time when you must learn how to get rid of mice.

Not only do they make a mess but mice also can contaminate your food with their urine and feces. They can gnaw through electrical wiring which can either cause power failures or electrical fires. In addition, they carry deadly or disabling diseases including Hantavirus, salmonellosis and many more. The infamous black plague of the middle ages is attributed to mice.

*The first and best thing to do is a major clean job. Mice are here for food. A good and thorough apartment clean is a great start to take away their food source.*

### **Make Your Home a Fortress**

One of the best ways to get rid of field mice is to thoroughly seal your home. Inspect all possible entry points such as cracks in the foundation, holes in the walls and floors, water pipes, and vents. The theory here is to make your home a fortress. Seal every possible entry point and the mice won't be able to enter in the first place. In addition, you'll notice improved energy efficiency because your climate-controlled air won't escape.

Sometimes, you can get rid of mice by removing the object of their desire. Are the mice attacking that 20-pound bag of dog food in the pantry? Don't leave food, both human or pet, where mice can get to it, even in bags. Store all food in a suitable container.

They can easily gnaw through flimsy plastic, slip under lids, and help themselves to the goods. Instead, go for heavy duty plastic or metal bins with screw-on, or tightly-latched, lids. Do the same with dried goods in the home such as cereals, flours, grains and rice. Use glass or metal canisters with re-sealable, airtight lids.

### **Best Low-Tech Answer To A Mice Problem**

The best low-tech way to get rid of mice is to invest in nature's best mousetrap: a cat. If you don't want the long term commitment of cat ownership, ask to borrow a neighbor's cat for a few days. Cats aren't for everyone though. If allergies are a steep price to pay to rid your home of mice, this simply isn't an option. It's time to go on the offensive and set up traps.

### **Types of Mouse Traps**

There are many different types of mouse traps. Some kill and others will only capture them to be freed elsewhere.

Here is a great link to recommendations:

### **Mice and Traps**

<http://www.lifescrript.com/>

### **Poison**

When you want to get rid of mice in the house, sometimes the best option is poison. This can be highly effective and yield immediate results. In addition, you may never have to deal with a dead mouse because most poisons kill mice after a slight delay. They may die in their nests or go outdoors to seek out water before they die. On the other hand, because of this, you may find dead mice in your toilet, sink, or swimming pool. Other mouse deaths may occur between your home's walls where it's impossible to fish out the carcass. When this happens, you must live with the stench until it runs its course. Poison is also risky when you have children and pets. So follow the directions to a tea.

Research is needed for your choice of Mice poisons. A simple Google will instantly bring quick results on what type of chemical works best for your needs. They have both toxic and natural.

The following links are supplied by Ruthie Lund personally and are some of the best way to get chemicals once you have chosen the type that best suits your needs.

<http://www.wholesalesuppliesplus.com/products/minty-menthol-essential-oil-sampler-kit.aspx>

<http://www.brambleberry.com/Essential-Oils-Sampler-Kit-1-sampler-kit-P4399.aspx>

<http://www.naturesgardencandles.com/candlemaking-soap-supplies/item/menthol/-menthol-crystals-%28pure-natural%29.html>

<http://www.bulkapothecary.com/product/essential-oils/pure-therapeutic-grade/camphor-essential-oil/>

[http://www.essentialwholesale.com/category/44/essential-oils#SV%3D,ST%3DPRODUCTNAMEA\\_Z,pn%3D1,ppp%3D76,OP%3DPP,aa%3D76,ps%3D|,SK%3D](http://www.essentialwholesale.com/category/44/essential-oils#SV%3D,ST%3DPRODUCTNAMEA_Z,pn%3D1,ppp%3D76,OP%3DPP,aa%3D76,ps%3D|,SK%3D)

<http://www.essentialdepot.com/category/soap-essential-oils.html>

Learning how to get rid of mice will prepare you for the job ahead. First, do the basics such as sealing your home and stashing the foods that are attracting the mice. Decide how you want to deal with the mice – are you comfortable killing them with traps and disposing of their carcasses or would you prefer poison to do the job on your behalf? Would a humane trap be a better choice and ease your conscious? You could hire a pest control service to set the traps but ultimately, you'll be the one who must check them. No matter what you decide, the time to take action and get rid of mice is now, before they make themselves at home and start reproducing.

## TENANT'S REPAIR LIST – Request for Repairs

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make the following repairs within the next 14 days.

√	PROBLEM	WHEN IT STARTED	DESCRIPTION
<b>INFESTATIONS</b>			
	Mice		
	Cockroaches		
	Bed bugs		
	Other		
<b>ELECTRICAL</b>			
	No/ broken smoke detector		
	Exposed Wiring		
	Short Circuits		
	No cover plates on outlets		
	Other		
<b>PLUMBING</b>			
	No hot water		
	Clogged pipes/toilet		
	Bad water pressure		
	Dripping faucets		
	Leaks		
	Other		
<b>WINDOWS</b>			
	Missing/torn screens		
	Missing/torn storm windows		
	Broken/cracked glass		
	Missing/ broken locks		
	Other		
<b>DOORS</b>			
	No deadbolt locks		
	Broken locks		
	Missing/broken door knobs		
	Other		

√	PROBLEM	WHEN IT STARTED	DESCRIPTION
	<b>WALLS / CEILINGS/ FLOORS</b>		
	Chipped / flaking paint		
	Holes or cracks in walls		
	Leaky roof or ceiling		
	Holes in carpet		
	Missing/broken tiles or linoleum		
	Other		
	<b>FURNACE</b>		
	Not enough heat		
	Gas leaks		
	Other		
	<b>APPLIANCES</b>		
	Broken stove/oven		
	Broken refrigerator		
	Other		
	<b>SECURITY / PRIVACY</b>		
	Illegal entries by landlord		
	Disturbance by other tenants		
	Break-ins, vandalism		
	Other		
	<b>OTHER AREAS</b>		
	Bare patches in yard		
	Trash from previous tenant		
	Problem with garage		
	Leaky basement		
	Pay utility bills		
	Other		

Tenant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tenant's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tenant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_