

## Rats and Mice

**B**oth rats and mice have made a significant impact in the Puget Sound region, particularly in King and Snohomish Counties. Rat populations have increased at an incredible rate with numerous news reports of bold rat activity during the daytime in parks and playgrounds, even while people are present! The incidence of rats in residential homes has increased tremendously.

Mice have also presented new problems, particularly in suburban and rural areas with the onset of *hantavirus*. While both rats and mice carry a number of diseases, *hantavirus* — a disease carried particularly by mice, has a 50% mortality rate and has shown up substantially in Washington State in recent years.

The trouble is that rodents aren't good tenants. They damage houses by their nest and tunnel building; they consume and spoil our stored food: they contaminate kitchen counters, food containers, and eating utensils; and they can spread disease or bite people.

Rodents have been known to start fires by gnawing on electrical wiring. These unpleasant characteristics are often accompanied by undesirable odors and noises. Fortunately, Cascade can help you maintain the level of health and sanitation that you and your family deserve.

### ***What to Look for in Your Home***

Since rodents are so small and (since they) usually work hard to remain secretive, people are often unaware that they have rodents living right alongside them - in

wall voids, attic spaces, between floors, beneath the house, or behind a cabinet. People often discover rodent infestations by the tell-tale signs of rat or mouse droppings or gnawed food packages. Sometimes they are noticed when items are taken out of storage. Sometimes they are only discovered by chance when some repairman or serviceman has to access an attic or crawl space. Because they are so elusive a periodic home inspection is a very good idea.

### ***Prevention***

Homeowners need to be aware of the potential problems rodents can cause and take steps to minimize the possibility of infestation. A periodic inspection is a good place to start, looking for ill-fitting door jambs, gaps around plumbing or wiring, improperly stored food items, including pet foods, and so on. Even trees which give rodents access to roof eaves should be carefully noted.

In order to avoid attracting or feeding rodents one of the most useful things a homeowner can do is avoid over feeding pets, especially outdoors. For that matter, it is a good idea to encourage neighbors to avoid this also since rats willingly travel 150 feet for food; in most cases that includes your neighbors two houses down!

Also, pet food must be stored in large pails, preferably metal, with tight fitting lids. We've encountered many instances where holes were gnawed at the base of pet food bags and plastic garbage-type pails. Whole mouse nests are occasionally found within the base of pet food containers!



# Rat Abilities



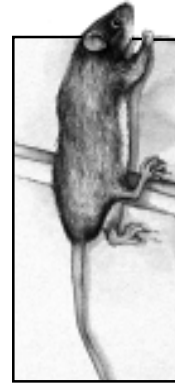
Excellent jumpers, rats are capable of jumping vertically 36 inches and horizontally 48 inches.



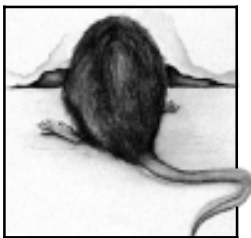
Dropping from a height of 50 feet doesn't kill or seriously injure rats.



Roof rats are agile climbers and can shimmy the outside of three-inch diameter pipes or any size pipe within three inches of a wall. Rats are capable of climbing the inside of vertical pipes that are 1 1/2 to 4 inches in diameter.



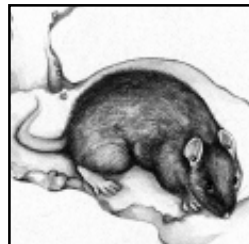
Excellent balance allows roof rats to easily scale brick or other rough walls that offer footholds and to travel along power lines and ropes. Norway rats are good climbers, but they are not as agile as roof rats.



Since rats can fit through openings that are as small as 1/2 inch in diameter, it's very difficult to rat-proof a building.



Rats constantly gnaw anything softer than their teeth, including lead sheeting improperly-cured concrete, sun-dried adobe brick, cinder block, wood and aluminum sheeting.



Norway rats can burrow to a depth of four feet. Roof rats burrow very little.



Water doesn't stop Norway rats. They can swim as far as 1/2 mile in open water, dive through water plumbing traps and travel in sewer lines, even against strong water currents. Roof rats are capable swimmers, but only swim if necessary.

# Mouse Abilities



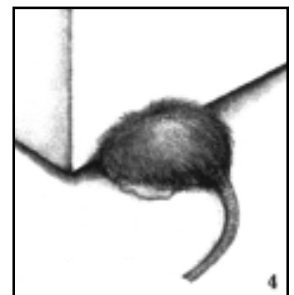
1. Extremely curious, mice are quick to explore any new additions to their environment.



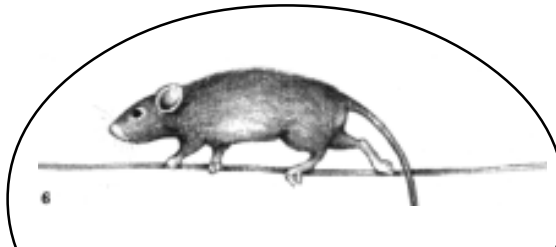
2. A mouse can jump down from a height of 12 feet without injury.



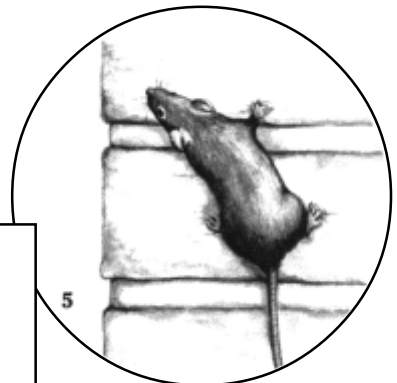
3. Excellent jumpers, mice are capable of leaping at least 12 inches vertically.



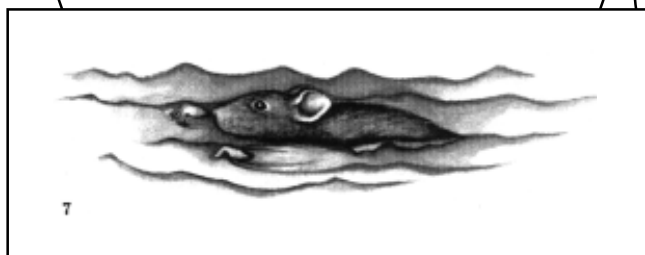
4. Since mice can fit through openings as small as 1/4 inch in diameter, it's virtually impossible to completely mouseproof any building.



5. Sure-footed climbers, mice can easily scale any vertical surface that is textured or rough enough to allow a toehold.



6. With their highly developed sense of balance, mice can walk along telephone wires, ropes and similar thin objects.



7. Although they are good swimmers, mice tend to take to water only if left with no other alternative.

## ***Cascade's Rodent Control Service***

Cascade's service personnel are very knowledgeable about rodent biology and behavior. Each Cascade technician is fully trained and licensed by the State of Washington to safely handle and place rodent baits and traps. We have extensive experience controlling rodents in restaurants, nursing homes, medical clinics, day-care centers, and schools, as well as in homes.

The technician will start with a thorough inspection of your home, looking for rodent access, food, water, and nests. Recommendations regarding repairs to eliminate rodent access and/or food storage practices will be made. Be certain to follow these recommendations! Bait placement, trapping or some combination will then be performed to eliminate the problem.

### ***Cascade's rodent control consists of:***

The **BASIC Rodent Treatment** consists of an **extensive and thorough inspection** to determine points of entry, food sources, nest material sources, nest sites, areas of activity/trails, and outside sources (of rodents in neighborhood or outdoor nesting). **Trapping**-effectively placed, avoiding the use of toxic baits in living space. (**Baits** - used in limited location for mouse problems only).

This service provides you with both initial rodent control and valuable information that shows you where your home is vulnerable to rodent infestation. Often, the information provided in the *Rodent Exclusion Report* is alone with well worth the service fee.

Should your home be in need of **exclusion work**-remedies to seal and block the structure from rodents-it will be very important that you address these problems to both solve your immediate rodent infestations and to prevent on-going re-infestation. Cascade, or an associate of ours, can provide this service.

In many cases Cascade's **Rodent Protection Service** is absolutely necessary in order to protect your home from current heavy rodent populations throughout the greater King County area. With the number of rodents living in the vicinity of your home, a periodic service is necessary to protect your home from the damage and contamination they cause.

***Cascade's guaranteed Rodent Protection Service*** is available provided that all recommended rodent exclusion work has been completed, and includes the strategic placement of tamper-resistant bait stations at or near the house exterior perimeter and nearby grounds of the home, and to inspect and replenish the bait stations while monitoring the local rodent population and our success in protecting the home from infestation. **This service is covered by a money-back guarantee.**

**Rodent-borne disease hazard.** It is important that you, the Cascade customer understand that rodents commonly carry many diseases, occasionally including hantavirus. Rodent-borne diseases and the contamination they cause is more fully explained in ***Cascade's Rodent Decontamination flyer***. Your *Cascade* technician can provide you a copy.

## ***What You Can Expect from Cascade Pest Control***

Cascade is a local, family owned business where clients are treated with respect for their concerns. Cascade Pest Control has been serving the greater King County and South Snohomish County areas since 1979 with true commitment to service and safety.

We are dedicated to utilizing those methods and materials which have the least environmental-health impact. The safety of people, especially children, pets, and wildlife is one of utmost concern to us. Our record and our industry leadership shows it.

Our technicians' training exceeds the minimum state standards, and their service is tracked by our quality management system. We believe you'll come to trust us as *your* pest control provider.



**CASCADE** Pest Control provides:

- ▶ A 100% No-Risk Guarantee on most services
- ▶ Protection of Health and Property
- ▶ Effective Service
- ▶ Personalized Treatment
- ▶ Peace of Mind



Protecting Your Health & Property™

**CASCADE'S RECOGNITION:**

- Better Business Bureau Ethics in Business Award
- Health Department Certification.
- Numerous Environmental Health Awards:
  - Business Partners for Clean Water
  - Green Globe Award Winner
  - Envirostar Business (Highest Rating)
  - Governor's Environmental Award (twice)
  - Washington State Ecological Commission Award
  - W.I.N. Environmental Achievement Award

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR:**

- Carpenter Ants • Bees & Wasps • Powder Post Beetles  
Carpet Beetles • Fleas / Ticks • Silverfish • Rats & Mice  
Termites • Spiders • Moisture Ants • Roaches • Moths  
Rodent Decontamination • Yellow Jackets

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