PEST TREATMENT — GUIDE

Rodent treatment and exclusion

Use CDC guidance to compare trapping, entry-point repair and safe cleanup. Keep each part of the quote separate.

Updated November 10, 2026

A useful rodent plan addresses food, water, shelter and entry points. CDC recommends removing the conditions that attract rodents and sealing holes that let them inside. Removing animals without addressing access leaves part of the job unfinished.

Ask for an inspection record

Show the provider where you saw droppings, gnaw marks or animals. Ask it to identify likely routes through doors, utility openings, roof edges and crawl spaces. Request photos of inaccessible areas. Ask whether there are signs of another animal that needs a different plan.

Do not ask for a price based only on floor area. The amount of entry repair, access and cleanup can matter more than room count. Request a written list of each opening to repair, the material proposed and any work excluded.

Separate removal from exclusion

| Part of the job | Question to ask | | --- | --- | | Removal | Which method will be used, where and why? | | Monitoring | Who checks devices and records activity? | | Exclusion | Which openings will be repaired and by whom? | | Sanitation | Which food and water sources need attention? | | Cleanup | Who handles droppings, nests and contaminated materials? |

Ask how children and pets will be kept away from control devices. If bait is proposed, request the product label and ask why it is appropriate. Do not treat a bait station as a repair to the building.

Handle droppings safely

CDC says not to sweep or vacuum rodent urine, droppings or nesting material. This can put contaminated material into the air. Follow CDC's full cleanup instructions, including gloves and wet disinfection. Use the disinfectant's label for its contact time. Do not mix cleaning products.

Heavy infestations and contaminated heating or cooling systems need added precautions. Explain the conditions before accepting a cleanup quote. Do not assume the person setting traps also removes contaminated insulation.

Price and follow-up

HomeGuide's exterminator guide lists USD $150 to $600 for mice and rats in its one-time price table, checked 2026-11-10. Treat this as a US removal planning range. It does not establish the cost of entry repairs or contamination cleanup. Ask for those amounts separately. Obtain a local CAD quote in Canada.

Record new activity after work. Ask when repairs will be checked and what happens if activity returns. Keep invoices, inspection photos and a map of repaired openings. Renters can send these records to the property manager to coordinate work beyond the unit.

Sources

- Controlling Wild Rodent Infestations | Healthy Pets, Healthy People | CDC. Fetched and checked 2026-11-10.
- How to Clean Up After Rodents | Healthy Pets, Healthy People | CDC. Fetched and checked 2026-11-10.
- How Much Does an Exterminator Cost? (2026). HomeGuide, commercial US cost guide. Fetched and checked 2026-11-10.

Frequently asked questions

Does removal include sealing holes?

Not necessarily. Ask for a separate list of entry repairs, materials and exclusions in the quote.