

Prevention is Your Strongest Defense

10 Common Entry Points for Rodents to Enter Your Home This Fall

CATCHMASTER

- 1 Fill any gaps the size of a dime or larger around the perimeter of the home with steel wool and caulk.
- 2 Stack firewood away from your house. They are an excellent harborage for rodents as well as other pests near the home.
- 3 Remove window fans and air conditioning units as soon as the weather cools.
- 4 Ensure that gaps around entry points for utility lines, HVAC and plumbing are properly sealed.
- 5 Ensure that door and window frames are in good condition.
- 6 Inspect and replace worn door sweeps.
- 7 Ensure that garage doors are properly aligned. A gap as small as 1/4 inch can provide easy access.
- 8 Close garage doors promptly after use.
- 9 Mice are amazing climbers and can scale vertical walls and cross utility wires to enter a home or structure along the roofline.
- 10 Ensure that roofing and dryer vents have screens to prevent rodents from entering.

[Massachusetts Rodent Prevention - 10 Common Entry Points \[Infographic\] \(burgesspest.com\)](#)



Keeping Nahant Cleaner: We're All in this Together!

One Health is the idea that the health of people is connected to the health of animals and our shared environment.

When we protect **one**,
we help protect **all**.



www.cdc.gov/onehealth



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Prevention, Education, Management: Working Together for a Cleaner Nahant



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Working Together for a Cleaner Nahant

The Rodent Control Program is only effective if everyone takes responsibility for keeping their homes and businesses as rodent proof as possible. **Remember, if rats cannot feed, they cannot breed!**

Prevention

- Store garbage in plastic or metal containers with tight lids so rats can't get in
- Place trash outside shortly before pick-up– don't leave plastic garbage bags outside.
- Do not leave pet or bird food out. Remove uneaten pet food when pet is done feeding. Bird feeders should not continue to be used if you observe rodent activity in your area.
- **Don't give rodents a place to stay!** Abandoned buildings, vehicles, and appliances should be properly secured. Keep lawns and properties maintained: Lawns should be cut short enough to prevent rats from nesting and hiding.

Education

- Removing food sources, water, and items that provide shelter for ro-

dents is the best way to prevent contact with them.

- [How to Control Wild Rodent Infestations | Healthy Pets, Healthy People | CDC](#)
- [final ppbd guidelines 12-5-12.pdf \(sfenvironment.org\)](#)

Management

- The CDC recommends an integrated approach with an emphasis on environmental sanitation, proper food storage, rodent-proofing, and trapping. The use of rodenticides should only be used in areas of large infestations and only in places that minimize contact with non-target species (domestic animals, other wildlife species) and small children (CDC, 2017). Remember that poison baits can be dangerous for people and animals and must be used according to label instructions and are best left to state licensed pest control operators. **Prevention is key!**

