

House Mice

QUICK STATS:



Color:

Dusty gray with a cream belly



Shape:

Round



Size:

2½ – 3¾ inches long



Region:

Found throughout the U.S. and the world



House Mice

Mus musculus Linnaeus



OVERVIEW:

The house mouse is the most commonly encountered rodent in the U.S. It can adapt quickly to changing conditions and breeds rapidly. In fact, a female can give birth to a half dozen babies every three weeks, and can produce up to 35 young per year.

HABITS:

House mice usually live in structures, but they can survive outdoors, too. They prefer to nest in dark, secluded areas and often build nests out of paper products, cotton, packing materials, wall insulation and fabrics. They are excellent climbers and can jump up to a foot high. House mice prefer to eat seeds and insects, but will eat many kinds of food.

THREATS:

House mice are not only a nuisance; they can also cause serious property damage by chewing on materials. In fact, they have been known to spark electrical fires by gnawing on wires inside homes and behind walls. House mice can also eat and contaminate stored food, and are a vector of Salmonella, tapeworms, and the plague (via fleas), among other dangerous organisms.

PREVENTION:

- Seal cracks and holes on the outside of your home. Pay special attention to areas where utilities and pipes enter the home.
- Mice can hide in clutter, so keep areas clear and store boxes off of the floor.
- Keep food in sealed, rodent-proof containers.
- Regularly inspect your home for signs of mice, including droppings, gnaw marks and damaged food goods.
- If you suspect a rodent infestation, contact a licensed pest professional.

DID YOU KNOW? House mice...

- cannot see clearly beyond six inches and are color blind. However, their other senses are very keen.
- can swim, but prefer not to.
- produce about 50 droppings a day, each.
- can fit through an opening as small as a dime.

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