

In many cases the first sign of a rodent problem is the droppings they leave behind.

Follow these simple steps to protect yourself from rodent-borne diseases.



Cleaning Up After a Rodent Infestation

**Multnomah County
Health Department
Vector Control and Code Enforcement
503-988-3464
www.mchealth.org/vector**

The information provided is based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations and guidelines.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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Cleaning Equipment needed:

- rubber gloves
- dust mask
- long sleeve shirt
- disinfectant
- spray bottle

Before you clean

Air out a room or building that has been closed for a long time before you enter it.

Always wet down surfaces and floors with a disinfectant before cleaning.

Disinfectants:

Use disinfectants to sterilize infested areas, traps, droppings, and dead carcasses before they are handled. Apply with a plastic spray bottle. Try either one of these.

- A 10% solution of bleach made by mixing 1½ cups of household bleach with 1 gallon of water.
- Lysol diluted to label recommendations.

Disinfecting surfaces

Thoroughly soak all infested surfaces with a disinfectant before cleaning. Once the area is wet, allow the disinfectant to remain there for 20 minutes before wiping it up.

The “Wash Twice” rule

After you have cleaned the infested area there are some simple steps you should take.

- Wash your rubber gloves in disinfectant and then with soap and warm water before you take them off.
- Wash your hands and arms with soap and warm water immediately after taking off your gloves.

Launder all your clothes with hot water as usual.

Disposal of dead rodents

If fleas are present you may want to use a flea spray according to label before picking up used traps and dead animals.

- Wear rubber gloves.
- Thoroughly spray dead rodents and traps with disinfectant before handling.
- Once the rodent or traps has been soaked with disinfectant, triple bag it. Do not intermingle the bagged rodent or trap with other garbage and notify your garbage hauler for retrieval.
- If the traps are going to be reused, soak them in a bucket of disinfectant for 20 minutes then allow to dry before replacing them.

**Some diseases from rodents are airborne.
Never sweep, dust, or vacuum without disinfecting first.**

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