



By Scott Davis

Scott is a recently retired 20-year police officer who gave pulse to his own pest control company, PestPRO, in 2011. Scott worked part-time in the pest control industry for several years prior to retiring and developed a fascination with the science. He is a graduate of Wilmington University, a member of the Delaware Pest Control Association, the National Pest Management Association and possesses numerous professional certifications related to the pest control industry. Although he is intrigued with various resolutions for pest problems, he is equally committed to the service that provides that resolution. PestPRO marries old-style customer service with modern technology. Scott and his team are driven to provide service excellence; leaving clients with an unmatched total service experience.

## HAVE A FIRE STARTER?

Although the house mouse can be a problem year around, the cooler months are always more problematic for rodent intrusion. As the temperatures decline chances are beady eyes are upon your home. Mice and other pests are looking for a warm place to spend the winter. Once inside they begin to multiply and may be more dangerous than what you think. Nearly one quarter of fires with unknown causes are believed by experts to be caused by rodent damage. Rodents chew on everything. Their teeth are constantly growing. As a result, they constantly gnaw in order to file down their teeth. Wiring with soft protective material is all throughout the warm confines of your home and is a welcomed delight to rodents. Plastic insulation surrounds electrical wiring for a reason. Electricity is hot when it travels through wire. When this protection is no longer there due to being chewed away by rodents the hot exposed metal becomes a fire hazard. Damaged wires resting next to wood supports or in and around insulation are often the fuel for these types of fires.

We cannot turn a blind eye to the health hazards that rodents present either. Rodent excrement carries pathogens. Excrement will dry, become airborne and enter our living environment at some venture. Micro droplets of mouse urine can also cause allergies in children. And, lets not forget, rodents also bring fleas, mites, ticks and lice into your home.

So you may have a family or neighborhood cat. Although cats,

dogs and other predators may kill mice, they will not render effective control in most cases. Mice have a rapid reproductive rate and family pets simply cannot keep up. It is not uncommon to find rodents living in very close proximity to dogs and cats. Mice and rats often eat from a pet's dish or from what is spilled.

### Simple Game Plan - Modification & Exclusion

Stop leaving the door open. Mice are attracted to structures when they detect openings and escaping heat. The house mouse can enter an opening 1/4 inch or larger. Conduct a careful inspection of the outside perimeter of your house or building. All cracks should be sealed, paying special attention to the areas where utilities enter. These areas are often found to be in need of caulking. Use copper mesh for larger gaps topped off with expandable foam for an airtight seal. Although rodents are typically good climbers, we should not help them out. Tree branches



that over hang your house and overgrown shrubbery often provide rodents excellent access to your roof and vents. Keeping these rodent ladders trimmed often adds to curb appeal, is healthier for the specific plant and is part of the plan.

Mice are extremely attracted to pet food and birdseed. Bird feeders are commonly found to be a major contributing factor to many rodent infestations. Bird feeders should be positioned well away from the house if not removed altogether. All pet food food inventories should be stored in sealed plastic containers. Cluttered garage, basement and



attic areas should be organized. Cluttered areas provide mice plenty of places to hide and nest. Try and store items in plastic containers opposed to cardboard. Mice love to chew through cardboard to make their nests.

Following these suggestions will make your property less desirable to rodents. It will be like pulling up to a one-star rated hotel.... they wont stay too long. Most homeowners can complete rodent Proofing. However, a trained and licensed professional will always conduct a needs analysis of your property and complete the service to ensure you, your family and home are properly protected.

**PestPRO** 

Your problem is our priority

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