



RODENT

IDENTIFICATION CHART

KC METRO

04/10

2026 EDITION

Mice don't need an open door. Learn the signs, seal the gaps, trap what's inside.

#1 RODENT CALL IN KC

House mouse

Fits through a pencil-width gap (1/4"). Garage doors, utility lines and foundation gaps let them in.

RODENT SEASON

September - February

Mice move in when nights drop into the 40s. Exclusion before October is the play.

J F M A M J J A S O N D

RURAL & LAKE HOMES

Deer mouse = hantavirus

Never sweep or vacuum droppings dry. Wet them with disinfectant, wear gloves and a mask.

TRAPS VS. POISON

Seal first, then trap

Bait blocks indoors mean dead rodents in walls and risk to pets. We seal, trap and monitor.

**HOUSE MOUSE***Mus musculus***2 1/2-4" BODY** **HEALTH & FIRE RISK**

- Gray-brown; pointed nose; hairless tail as long as the body
- Droppings 1/4" with pointed ends – 50 to 75 a day
- Musky odor; gnaws wiring, insulation and pantry goods

Where: Garages, kitchens, wall voids, attics, under appliances

**DEER MOUSE***Peromyscus maniculatus***3-4" BODY** **HANTAVIRUS CARRIER**

- Brown-gray back with white belly & white feet; two-tone tail
- Big eyes and ears; the rural, lake and outbuilding invader
- Nests in cars, campers, sheds and stored boxes

Where: Barns, sheds, cabins, garages, vehicle engine bays

**NORWAY RAT***Rattus norvegicus***7-10" BODY** **STRUCTURAL & DISEASE**

- Heavy, brown-gray; blunt nose, small ears, tail shorter than body
- Burrows along foundations, under slabs, sheds and decks
- Droppings 3/4" with blunt ends; greasy rub marks on walls

Where: Sewers, foundation burrows, crawl spaces, dumpsters, coops

NOT SURE WHAT YOU HAVE?

Send a photo and we'll tell you.

CALL OR TEXT

(913) 738-7827

Free ID from a licensed pro.

! SIGNS OF A RODENT PROBLEM**DROPPINGS**

Fresh ones are dark & soft; old ones gray and crumbly.

**GNAW MARKS**

On wood, plastic, wiring, food packaging & door corners.

**RUB MARKS**

Dark greasy smudges along walls, pipes and travel routes.

**NESTING**

Shredded paper, insulation and fabric in hidden spots.

**NIGHT NOISES**

Scratching in walls, ceilings or crawl spaces after dark.

**DAYTIME SIGHTINGS**

Rodents out in daylight usually mean a heavy population.

? MOUSE OR RAT?**MOUSE**

- Droppings 1/4", rice-shaped, pointed
- Gets in through a 1/4" gap (if a pencil fits)
- Small clean gnaw marks; tiny tracks

**RAT**

- Droppings 3/4", capsule-shaped, blunt
- Needs a 1/2" gap
- Rough 1/8" tooth grooves; burrows

Norway rats are the Kansas City rat. Roof rats are not known here – a "rat" in a tree or attic is usually a squirrel or a big mouse. Send a photo and we'll tell you.

✓ EXCLUSION CHECKLIST – WHAT WE SEAL**1 GARAGE DOORS**

Replace worn bottom seals and side weatherstripping; mice follow the corner gap.

2 UTILITY PENETRATIONS

AC lines, hose bibs, dryer vents, cable & gas lines – copper mesh + sealant.

3 FOUNDATION & SIDING

Cracks, weep holes, gaps where siding meets the foundation; rodent-proof vent covers.

4 DOORS & SWEEPS

Daylight under a door is a mouse door. Door sweeps and threshold adjustments.

5 INSIDE

Snap traps along walls in the travel routes, monitored and reset until activity stops.



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PHOTO

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