

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Sara Gagné-Holmes
Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
11 State House Station
286 Water Street
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel; (207) 287-8016; Fax (207) 287-2887
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

Rodent Mitigation Procedures for Establishments Regulated By the Health Inspection Program

1. If the establishment has a current contract with a licensed pest control company, the establishment must provide the Health Inspector with copies of all site visit reports generated due to treatment or routine maintenance from the pest control company that have occurred during the previous 6 months. Additional reports may be requested as needed.
2. If the establishment does not currently have a pest control company, they must contract with one immediately and provide a copy of the contract for on-going, future pest control services to the Health Inspector.
3. The establishment must immediately provide to the Health Inspector all new site visit reports from the pest control company. Each pest report shall include:
 - a. Date of visit
 - b. Time of visit
 - c. Location of areas inspected and where activity was found. **It is important that the entire facility be inspected consistently at each visit to show an accurate assessment compared to prior site visits in order to assess mitigation efforts.**
 - d. Findings of activity to include droppings, live or dead captures, signs of chewing etc.
 - e. Corrective Actions recommended by the pest control company
 - f. Treatments that have been used by the pest control company to mitigate the issue.
4. Rodent feces cleanup should be included in the contract if the pest management company will be responsible for this. Otherwise, the establishment is responsible and will follow the Federal [CDC recommendations](#) for rodent cleanup. Clean up rodent droppings **after** each inspection conducted by the pest contractor.
5. When the pest site visit reports show that the infestation has been mitigated, the Health Inspector will conduct an inspection to make their observations. This inspection needs to be conducted **before** allowing the professional cleaning company to perform their services.
6. Once the Health Inspector provides the approval for professional cleaning, the establishment must contract with a professional cleaning company that has a [commercial master applicator license](#) to clean and disinfect for rodent issues (7C3) and provide the contract to the inspector. Companies with 7C3 licensing can be found at the following website:
<https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/pesticides/pesticide-application-companies.shtml>
7. Prior to being allowed to reopen, the establishment will provide the professional cleaning company's documentation including, but not limited to:
 - a. Actions taken;
 - b. Equipment and surfaces cleaned;
 - c. Types of cleaning AND disinfecting;
 - d. Types of chemicals and concentrations used;

- e. Contact time for the chemical(s) used.
8. After the professional cleaning company has completed the cleaning and disinfecting of the establishment and the required contact time for the chemical disinfecting has been achieved, the establishment must follow the cleaning company's directions regarding any additional cleaning needed on treated food contact surface areas to remove the disinfectant residual.
9. The inspector will conduct another follow-up inspection to re-open the establishment **only after** receiving and reviewing the following:
 - a. The pest control company site visit reports, which will confirm the Imminent Health Hazard (IHH) conditions have been mitigated; and,
 - b. The professional cleaning company report that confirms the completion of the cleaning and disinfecting of the establishment and a statement from the establishment confirming the final cleaning and sanitizing of the treated food contact surfaces after disinfection, when applicable.

Guidance on Rodents

Rats and mice are known to spread many [diseases](#) worldwide that include [hantavirus](#). These diseases can spread to people directly, through handling of rodents; contact with rodent feces, urine, or saliva (such as through breathing in air or eating food that is contaminated with rodent waste); or rodent bites. Rodents can also carry ticks, mites, or fleas that can act as vectors to spread diseases between rodents and people. Many diseases do not cause any apparent illness in rodents, so you cannot determine whether a rodent is carrying a disease just by looking at it.

The best way to prevent diseases spread by rodents is to practice effective rodent control in your establishment. Learn how to eliminate a rodent infestation and prevent future rodent infestations by these three steps: [seal up](#), [trap up](#) and [clean up](#).

Sources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-pets/rodent-control/clean-up.html>

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/documents/Hantavirus-FS-2017.pdf>