

FUNDAMENTALS OF RODENT CONTROL

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Rodent proofing your buildings is one of the most successful ways of eliminating rodents from entering the premises and causing you a problem at this time of the year. If done properly and thoroughly it completely eliminates the need for using traps or rodenticides.

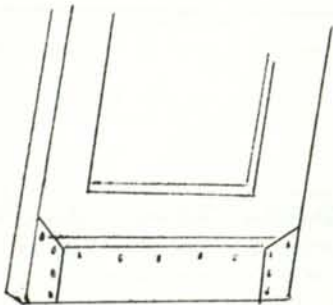
The upper teeth of a rat or mouse curve inward therefore it is difficult, if not impossible, for them to gnaw into a flat, hard surface. As a starting point they seek a gnawing edge.

Entry by rats and mice may be the result of burrowing in the ground beneath foundations and floors. They may climb and enter the upper reaches of structures, or they may go through doors, windows and other openings. Rodent proofing, to be effective, must take into consideration not only the habits of rats and mice but human error as well.

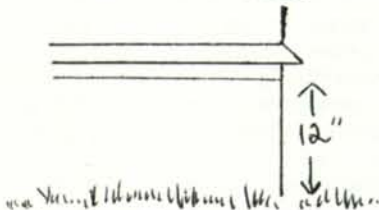
There are several fundamentals of rodent proofing which should be done:

1. All openings more than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter should be closed to prevent access by rats. Because mice can enter a building through holes as small as $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, they too should be sealed.

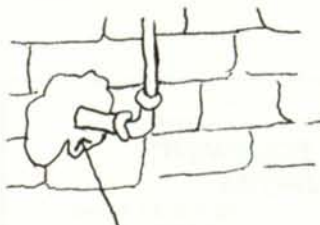
2. Cover all edges (door sides, window sash, etc.) subject to gnawings with sheet metal or hardware cloth.



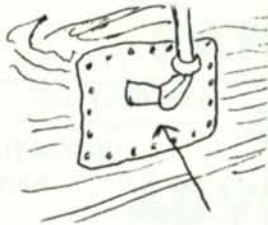
3. Concrete foundations should be at least 12 inches above the ground level to discourage the gnawing of holes. This practice is especially important in business and industrial areas.



4. Close holes around pipes through masonry by forcing heavy hardware cloth into the opening, then fill with concrete. Where pipes enter wood, fit sheet metal around pipe.

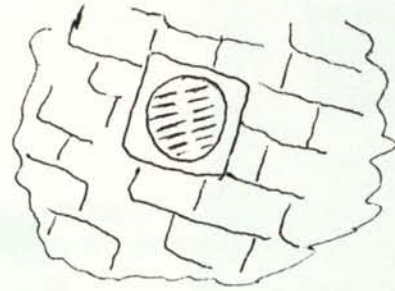


concrete



sheet metal

5. Keep floor drains tightly covered to stop entry from sewers.



6. Last, but not least, make sure all doors close securely.

Rodent proofing involves using construction materials to prevent these little animals from getting into the building.

VANDALISM

VANDALISM CAN BE PERSONALLY DANGEROUS.

It can be anything from minor destruction to major destruction and even death. Recently a Golf Course Superintendent was killed by a group of vandals.

Herman Miller of Champaign, Illinois, was assaulted by vandals and they beat him to death with golf clubs on his golf course. I knew Herman for several years and when I heard of this tragedy it made me think how careless I have been when checking out problems on the golf course. Most golf course superintendents will go out and check when he hears of vandals being on his course, thinking it may be members' kids or somebody just out for a walk; and not realizing they could turn on him.

With the morals of some people, and the use of drugs among some, I feel that vandalism on golf courses will get worse. We should be prepared to handle these problems. Know your local police and how to get in touch with them.

I urge you to use extreme caution when checking out what you may think is a routine problem. Call the police or get help **before** going out. You can rebuild a green or buy flags, flag poles, and tee markers but your family would have a hard time replacing you.

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