



# TOWN OF BROOKLINE

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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### Preventing Mouse Infestation At Home



Mice can carry diseases and create a nuisance at home. To keep your home mouse-free, it is suggested that you take the following steps:

#### Eliminate Food Sources:

- Keep exposed food in tightly sealed containers
- Clean floors, countertops and stoves after meals
- Take trash out frequently
- Keep a tight lid on trash
- Keep pet food in tight containers
- Have a maintenance person fix leaky pipes or other sources of water

#### Eliminate Potential Nesting Sites:

- Remove clutter from cabinets and closets
- Pick up all clothes and papers

#### Eliminate Ways to get in:

- Keep doors shut when not in use
- Have a maintenance person seal holes around pipes, in cabinets and along baseboards

*As always, Massachusetts Law requires all extermination to be done by a Licensed Pest Control Operator*

# Preventing Pests

**P**ESTS SEEK PLACES TO LIVE that satisfy basic needs for air, moisture, food, and shelter. The best way to control pests is to try to prevent them from entering your home or garden in the first place. You can do this by removing the elements that they need to survive. Take the following preventive actions:

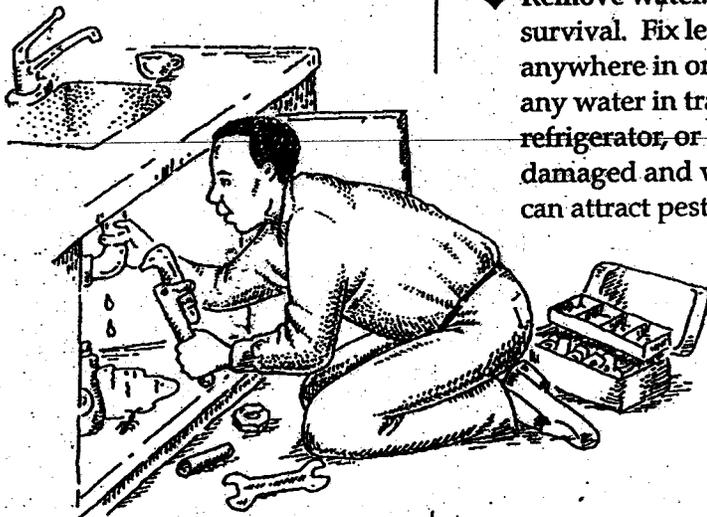
## Indoor Prevention

◆ **Remove water.** All living things, including pests, need water for survival. Fix leaky plumbing, and do not let water accumulate anywhere in or around your home. For example, do not leave any water in trays under your houseplants, under your refrigerator, or in buckets overnight. Remove or dry out water-damaged and wet materials. Even dampness or high humidity can attract pests.

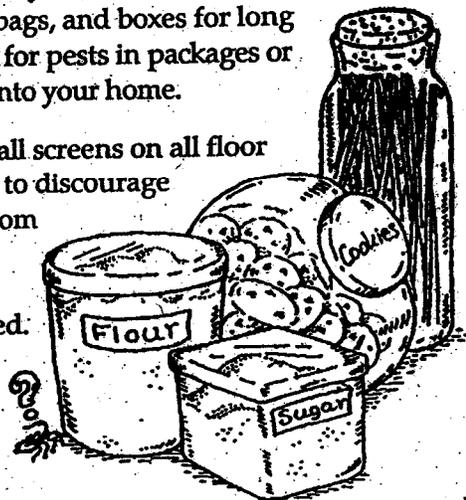
◆ **Remove food.** Store your food in sealed glass or plastic containers, and keep your kitchen clean and free from cooking grease and oil. Do not leave food in pet bowls on the counter or floor for long periods of time. Put food scraps or refuse in tightly covered, animal-proof garbage cans, and empty your garbage frequently.

◆ **Remove or block off indoor pest hiding places.** Caulk cracks and crevices to control pest access. Bathe pets regularly and wash any mats or surfaces they lie on to control fleas. Avoid storing newspapers, paper bags, and boxes for long periods of time. Also, check for pests in packages or boxes before carrying them into your home.

◆ **Block pest entryways.** Install screens on all floor drains, windows, and doors to discourage crawling and flying pests from entering your home. Make sure any passageways through the floor are blocked. Place weatherstripping on doors and windows. Caulk and seal openings in walls. Keep doors shut when not in use.



Pests need water to survive. Fix leaky pipes.



Store food in sealed containers.