



Choosing Effective Rodent Control

When it comes to rodent infestations, professional pest control is always recommended. Between the dangers they can bring into a home and the nuisance created by their presence, it's always best to have a professional take a look at the problem to ensure it gets resolved quickly and completely.

However, professional rodent removal is a complicated process, and some companies are better suited to the task than others. With so many pest control services on the market, the best choice for who to handle your rodent problem isn't always obvious.

To get the best results for your money, it pays to know exactly what you're signing up for. In this consumer guide, we'll take a look at the most common household rodent invaders and the problems they cause in homes they infest, followed by six important factors to consider when choosing a rodent control service for your home

Invasive Rodents in the Southeast

In South Carolina, the two biggest rodent threats found invading and wreaking havoc within homes are squirrels and roof rats. Both are versatile climbers, allowing them to realistically get to almost anywhere within the home. However, they are especially prone to causing problems in the attic, an out-of-the-way area rarely visited by residents within the home that presents the perfect location to settle out of the way of the home's human inhabitants .

While squirrels are active during the day, roof rats are nocturnal, so the telltale scratching sounds you hear as they move around your home will come at night instead.

Damage Rodents Cause

Part of the reason why professional rodent control is always advised instead of DIY efforts is due to the many problems they cause in homes they infest.

Diseases directly spread by rodents include leptospirosis, hantavirus, salmonellosis, choriomeningitis, rat bite fever, and more. Beyond diseases they carry, they can also transmit diseases indirectly through the biological elements they leave behind, such as fur, body oil, and droppings. Historically, rodents were also partially responsible for spreading the black plague via the fleas on their backs.



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The parasites rodents bring with them are yet another reason why professional service is recommended. Even if you can find and remove the rodents yourself, you may not be as well-equipped to remove the fleas, ticks, and other hitchhikers they brought along with them.

In regards to property damage, rodents in the attic are known to chew on wires and nest in insulation, which can lead to severe damage and even fires. Rodents are also notorious for making bad pest situations worse, as the holes they leave behind from digging into walls, siding, and roof lines can also create entry points that other invasive pests can use to get inside. The fact that they defecate everywhere doesn't help matters.

These factors combined are the main reason why rodent infestations are best handled by the professionals in order to resolve issues quickly and effectively.

What to Look for in Rodent Service

Now that you know you have a rodent problem and what that means for your home, you can't hesitate to get help from a rodent removal specialist. However, making the wrong decision could end up costing you big money over time.

Here are six important factors to consider that can help you make the best decision:

1. What's Covered

Is your prospective rodent control provider covering roof rats, squirrels, or both? Is the service specific to a particular type of rodent, or does it cover all types of rodents and wildlife that could potentially get into your home? If you're uncertain which pest you're dealing with, it might be for the best to consider a company that provides more generalized rodent control services.

2. Exclusion

Getting rid of an existing rodent problem is only the first step in long-term rodent protection. Rodents are known to return continuously into homes they infest, either by chewing new holes or by re-entering through their previous entry points if they have not been effectively sealed.

Keep in mind that both squirrels and rats can squeeze into coin-sized holes in walls, roofs, and siding, so the ability to both locate and effectively seal these holes is a challenging task. This is why it's important to ask your prospective pest control provider about their ongoing exclusion services.



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As a potential customer, you'll need to know if the treatment provider will be able to close all the holes that could provide rodents entry in the future, and how their pricing protocol for returns. Will they charge you extra when a new hole appears, or will you be covered?

3. Guarantee

Without a guarantee, you have no insurance for your home nor your wallet should the rodent problem re-emerge. But beyond having a service guarantee in place, you should understand what it specifies. Is your prospective rodent control provider guaranteeing their work for today, or guaranteeing you'll be protected against rodent activity for the future? For the best long-term rodent protection, look for a long-term protection guarantee.

4. Trapping

Is your prospective rodent removal technician using traps to catch the rodents in and around your property? Some important questions to consider:

- Are they removing the rodents they trap from your home?
- If they're doing trapping and removal, is there a set number of calls you can make before being charged for additional calls back?
- Do they require you to check the traps yourself, or are they making return visits to check them?
- Will they remove what's caught in the traps afterward?

Some companies include trapping and removal, some offer unlimited trapping and removal, and some charge per trip - so be careful to specify before purchasing service.

5. Technology

Advances in pest control technology have led to the development of numerous devices that can be used to identify and locate rodent activity within basements, attics, crawl spaces, and other vulnerable areas of a home where rodents are prone to invade.

Ask about what methods your prospective company will use to remove rodents from your home and consider what technological tools they will have at your disposal. Employing a tech-savvy rodent removal expert could pay off. Tech-heavy treatments can be more expensive and often require you to be home in order to proceed, but can prevent a lot of inconvenience over time.



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6. Licensing

Find out your rodent removal provider's qualifications. Are they licensed? Do they have insurance? Many companies technically provide pest control, but if they're not licensed by the state, or they don't have any general liability or workman's comp insurance, hiring them could end up leaving you liable if something goes wrong. Make sure you're using a credible company before you make your decision.

When you have a rodent problem, you can't leave it be but you shouldn't have to fight the problem alone. Having a great rodent removal expert on your side can mean the difference between a problem that keeps coming back and a long-term solution.