

# TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK

BERGEN



COUNTY

SADDLE BROOK, NEW JERSEY 07663-4899

Municipal Building  
55 MAYHILL STREET

(201) 843-7100

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## How to Seal Up to Prevent Rodents

### Look for gaps or holes:

Check inside and outside for large and small gaps or holes. Mice can fit through a hole the width of a pencil (1/4 inch or 6 millimeters in diameter).

### Inside your home: where to look:

- Inside, under, and behind kitchen cabinets
- Floor areas in closets, especially corners
- Around the fireplace
- Around windows and doors
- Behind appliances
- Around the pipes under sinks and washing machines
- Around the pipes leading to water heaters and furnaces
- Around floor air and dryer vents
- Around all electrical, water, gas, and sewer lines
- Inside the attic
- In the basement or crawl space
- Around floor drains, such as in your basement or laundry room
- Between the floor and wall juncture

### Outside your home: where to look:

- In the roof among the rafters, gables, eaves, and soffits
- Around windows and doors (especially those without weather stripping)
- Between the foundation of the home and ground
- Around attic and crawl space vents
- Around holes for electrical, plumbing, cable, and gas lines

## Seal up gaps and holes:

- Using caulk to seal gaps between the home foundation and ground.
- Seal any holes you find to stop rodents from entering.
- Fill small holes with steel wool. Put caulk around the steel wool to keep it in place or use spray foam.
- Use lath screen or metal, cement, hardware cloth, or metal sheeting to fix larger holes. Cut material to fit around pipes.
- Fix gaps in trailer skirting and use flashing around the base of the house.
- Seal outbuildings and garages as well.

## Seal up food and water sources inside:

- Rodents are attracted to food and water sources, as well as places that are convenient for them to build nests.
- Keep food sealed in thick plastic, metal, or glass containers with tight lids.
- Clean up spilled food right away. Wash dishes and cooking utensils soon after use.
- Put pet food away after use. Do not leave food or water bowls out overnight.
- Keep inside garbage in thick plastic or metal containers with tight lids. Frequently clean the containers with soap and water. Dispose of trash and garbage on a frequent and regular basis.

## Seal up nesting sites and food sources outside:

- Clean up garbage around your house. Use a thick plastic or metal garbage can with no holes and a tight lid.
- Keep the outside cooking areas and grills clean.
- Keep composting bins at least 100 feet from your house.
- Keep bird feeders away from the house and use squirrel guards to limit access to the feeder for squirrels and other rodents.
- Keep grains and animal feed in thick plastic or metal containers with tight lids.
- Dispose of abandoned vehicles or move them more than 100 feet from your home.
- Move woodpiles 100 feet or more from your home and raise the wood at least one foot off the ground.
- Clean up brush and weeds around your home. Keep grass and shrubbery within 100 feet of your home well-trimmed.