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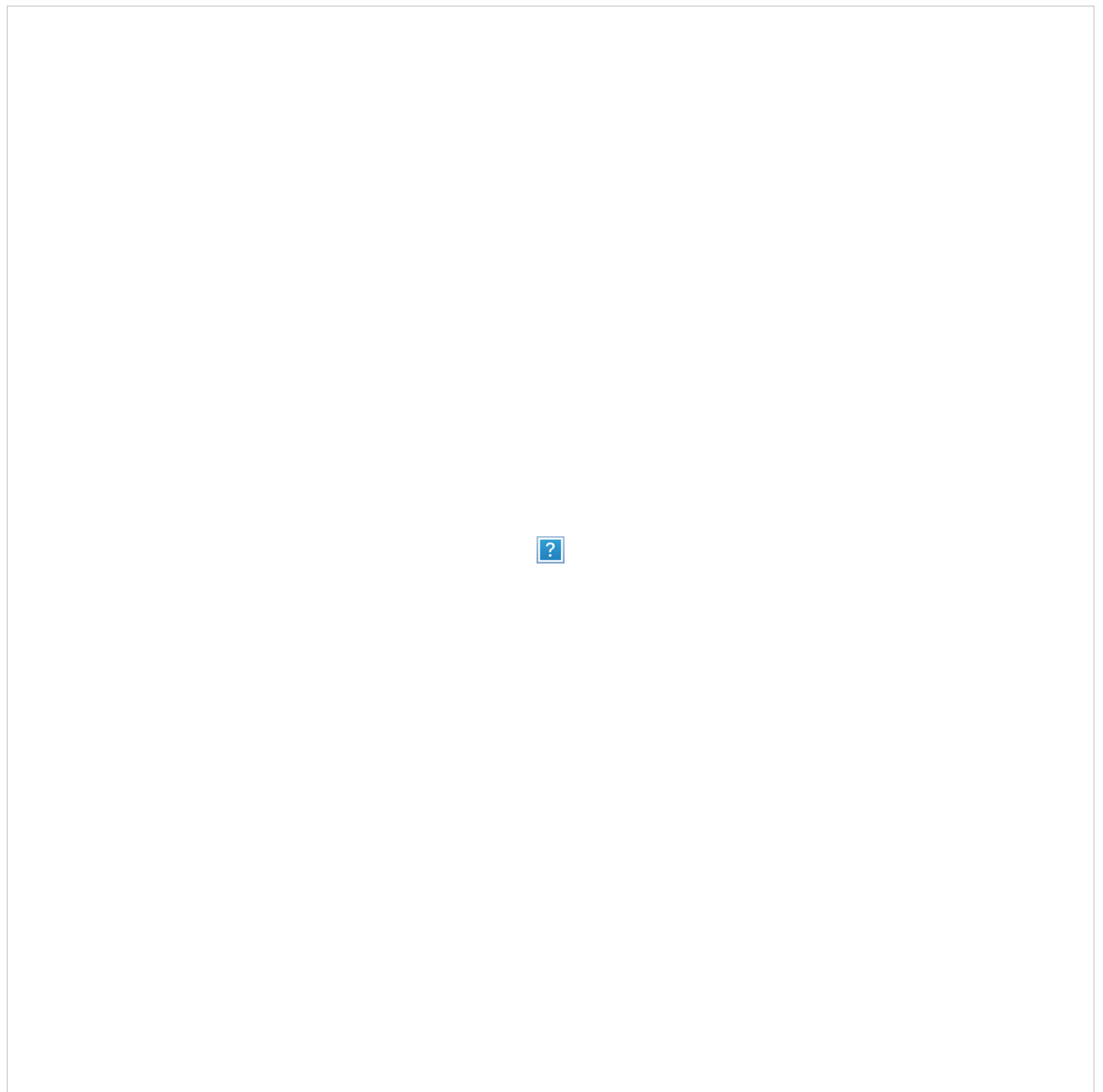# Remove and Prevent Rodents Humanely

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For the most part, mice and rats are not welcome visitors in our homes, but we should still utilize humane methods of removing them and preventing their return. Conventional mousetraps are cruel and cause animals to suffer a great deal. Commercial rodent poisons are inhumane and also place our children and pets at risk of dangerous exposure to toxic chemicals. Using this Hearts guide to nontoxic alternatives not only helps you maintain a more humane home, but it can often be more effective at preventing future infestations.

Quick Facts: Dangers of Conventional Pest Control

- **3-5 days of suffering with glue and snap traps**: Glue traps can take 3-5 days for animals to die of starvation, dehydration, exhaustion, or suffocation.[i] Snap traps injure animals and cause them to suffer for long periods of time.

- **12,000+ child rodent poisonings**: Each year, 12,000-15,000 incidents of child exposure to rodent poison are reported to poison control.[ii]

- **2nd highest cause of pet poisonings**:[iii] [iv] Common rodent poisons, Warfarin, bromethalin, strychnine, and zinc phosphide are all dangerous to pets.[v]

- **EPA banned toxins in commercial poisons**: Bodifacoum, bromadiolone, difethialone and difenacoum, highly toxic rodent poisons, were banned in direct-to-consumer products June 4, 2011, but professional pest control companies may still use them.[vi]

Take Action! How to Use Humane Pest Control

1. **Bar entrance:** Plugging holes into your home is essential to keeping mice and rats out; they can squeeze through a hole as small as 0.25 inches wide![vii]

2. **Smart food storage**: Make your home less appealing to mice and rats by storing food properly. Keep dry foods like rice, cereal, and flour, as well as pet foods, in sealed metal, glass, or ceramic containers instead of in plastic bags or paper boxes.[viii] Clean up crumbs and spilled foods promptly, too.[ix]

3. **Peppermint Oil:** Mice and rats are repelled by peppermint, so plant mint around the edge of your house or place cotton balls soaked in peppermint oil in any suspected entry points into your house.

4. **Buy humane traps**: PETA offers a humane mousetrap for $15. It catches without hurting, and allows you to release them

into the wild. Check traps frequently to ensure the mouse doesn't become dehydrated or sick due to the stress of being trapped.

5. **Homemade humane traps**: EcoSalon has instructions for a homemade humane mousetrap made from a cardboard toilet paper tube, some peanut butter, and an empty trashcan or bucket.

6. **Ask businesses and regulators for humane treatment**: Ask hardware and drugstores to stop selling inhumane traps. Additionally, reach out to the EPA requesting that the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) be amended so that EPA has the authority to regulate pest-control devices.[x]

Dig Deeper: Taking the Humane Approach to Pests

- Read John Hadidian's book, *Wild Neighbors: The Humane Approach to Living with Wildlife*.

- Check out the Humane Society's product guides for pest control.

- Explore the "Under Siege" tool on the Humane Wildlife Control website to see common points of entry and signs of wildlife damage to your house.

Image via Jannes P

➕ **References**

➕ **References**

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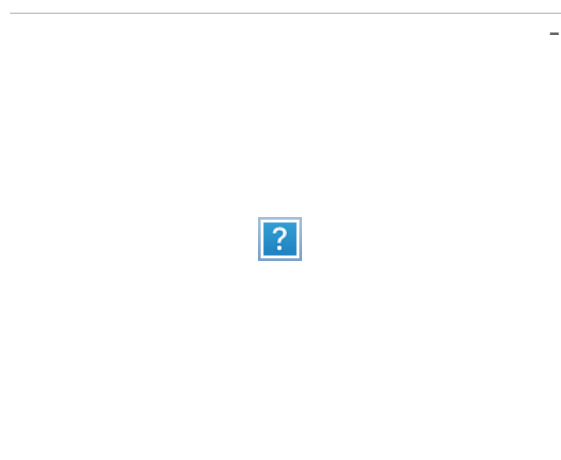Buyer Beware! Green Washed Cruelty-Free Labels

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