



Reasons why Mice can be so Dangerous

By Jonathan Bricks

For some reason, mice often benefit from a better reputation than that of other rodents, such as rats. Yes, mice can appear to be very adorable with their big eyes, little round ears, and cute little squeaks. But the last thing you want is to have a mouse problem in your home.

They may appear to be harmless, but they can actually be very dangerous. Even if you spot just a single mouse in your home, you should schedule a professional pest inspection to ensure that you don't have a mouse infestation, not to mention to remove the mouse and put into place methods of prevention.

Reasons Mice are so Dangerous

There are two main reasons why you'll want to have a pest control service come perform a thorough inspection in the event that you spot a mouse or signs of a mouse/mice can cause physical damage to your home and your belongings, and they can spread potentially deadly diseases.

Types of Damage Mice can Cause

The presence of mice in your home means that they are going to be urinating and defecating somewhere. This can result in damage to some of your possessions, such as your carpeting or upholstery. This type of damage could prove costly to clean or replace. Urine can also damage and destroy books, magazines and storage boxes, items often left in attics and basements, where mice often build their nests.

If that wasn't enough, mice have a habit of chewing on the environment around them, just like rats do. They can cause physical damage to furniture, more specifically wood and upholstery, by gnawing through it. They can also cause damage to the structure of your home because of this. They've been known to chew through insulation, cardboard, and wood.

Even more dangerous, mice will gnaw through electrical wiring. Not only can this affect the function of your home (especially if that wiring affects any of your electrical components) it can present a serious risk for an electrical fire. In fact, wiring damaged by mice is thought to be the cause of a substantial percentage house fires.

Types of Diseases Mice can Spread

Even though mice can cause a substantial amount of damage, especially if they grow in numbers and you don't do anything about it, it's the potential diseases that they carry that make them such a serious danger to everyone in your home.

Mice can spread the diseases that they carry through contact with their urine and feces. They can also do so through their saliva, which is a serious problem since mice will without a doubt get into any food that you leave out. Not to mention that mice can contaminate the water and food that you leave out for your pets as well, thereby spreading diseases to them. The following are some of the more common diseases that mice tend to carry:

- **Hantavirus** - Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, or HV. It can cause flu-like symptoms, severe respiratory distress, and renal failure. It's spread through feces, urine, and saliva.
- **Lyme Disease** - Lyme disease is found in all types of rodents. Mice can bring infected ticks in with them, which can then spread the disease. Lyme disease can cause fever, headaches, skin lesions, and arthralgias.
- **Plague** - Even though the plague is often associated with rats, it can also be spread by mice. The plague can be transmitted from a mouse via a flea bite, but it can also be transmitted through contact with the mouse. The plague causes damage to the circulatory and respiratory systems.
- **Salmonella** - Salmonella is a type of food poisoning that causes intestinal disorders and can be spread by mice through feces contamination.
- **Typhus** - Typhus is spread through fleas, which mice can carry. Typhus can cause fever, rash, headaches, and respiratory attacks.

In addition to carrying these diseases, the feces and urine that mice leave behind can trigger allergies as well.

Mice may seem relatively harmless when you see them scurry across your floor, but don't be fooled. They may look cute, but they pose a serious danger to your household. Not only can they cause physical damage to your belongings, furniture, and your home's structure, but they can spread potentially fatal diseases. If you think you have a mouse problem, contact a pest control professional right away.

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