

**Do your part to help prevent the harboring of pests.**

---

# **PROVIDENCE PEST PREVENTION**

---

**A Resource Guide  
to Prevent and Maintain  
a Pest-Free Providence**

# FOR PROPERTY OWNERS, TENANTS, AND CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONALS

---

Rodents, including rats and mice, are common in urban areas throughout the world. Providence, Rhode Island is no exception. We are asking property owners, tenants and construction professionals to do their part and to follow preventive steps to help make Providence a healthy and clean city for all to enjoy!

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a prevention-based pest management method that provides long-lasting pest control, improves building conditions and is less harmful to residents and pets than traditional pest control methods.

Whereas traditional pest control relies heavily on pesticide applications, IPM targets the underlying causes of pest infestations through simple pest proofing strategies such as fixing leaks and holes, managing trash to deprive pests of food and water, and maintenance of properties and construction sites to deprive pests of shelter.

When pesticides are used, they must be handled by a trained professional and used appropriately in the safest manner possible in order to prevent harm to humans, pets and other wildlife.

---

**Please review the following  
prevention tips and guidance  
to help make your property  
“Rodent Ready!”**

**▶ Online Resource: [Click here](#)  
to watch a video with helpful  
tips on Pest Prevention.**

( <https://youtu.be/zumICWZrAHc> )

# PEST MANAGEMENT TIPS FOR OWNERS AND TENANTS

Sealing cracks, fixing leaks, maintaining a clean building exterior, and removing trash deprives pests of food, water and shelter. Owners and tenants should both work together to ensure properties are maintained to prevent rodent infestations.

## Keep your home clean and dry –especially the kitchen

- Keep food in sealed containers
- Keep counters and sinks free from food residue
- Reduce clutter
- Recycle piles of newspapers, paper bags and cardboard
- Don't leave pet food out overnight
- Don't leave dirty dishes in the sink

## Maintain building exterior and yard

- Identify water leaks, holes and other conditions that can attract pests
- Keep yard clean and maintained regularly
- Remove weeds and debris near buildings and in yards
- Do not leave pet food outside
- Keep grass and shrubbery well-trimmed
- Place bird food in a feeder, not on the ground, and clean up spillage daily
- Clean up animal waste frequently







## Manage trash, recycling, yard debris and bulk items daily

- Store trash properly in bags in carts and have it collected weekly
- Rinse recyclables before placing in recycling cart
- Store recycling properly, NOT in bags in carts and have it collected weekly
- Keep property clean and free of debris/trash/bulky items
- Do not overfill carts in order to keep lids secure



**One improperly stored bag of food waste can feed hundreds of pests.**

# EXTERIOR PEST PROOFING TIPS

Where to Look	What to Look For	How to Pest Proof
 <p>Exterior entry doors</p>	<p>Light penetrating underneath exterior doors, door threshold damage and gaps in door seal</p>	<p>Install door sweeps at the base of all exterior entry doors. Fit bottom of garage doors with a rubber seal. Line the bottom track of sliding glass doors with foam weather stripping.</p>
 <p>Exterior wall penetrations</p>	<p>Gaps around any areas where plumbing, electrical or cable services enter the building.</p>	<p>Seal all gaps using backer rods and outdoor sealant.</p>
<p>Gutters</p> 	<p>Buildup of dirt and leaves from the roof and in gutters</p>	<p>Remove debris with rubber gloves and a gutter scoop</p>
 <p>Exterior vents</p>	<p>Holes in fitted screens or missing screens on vents.</p>	<p>Replace or fit broken or missing screens on vents using galvanized mesh.</p>
<p>Landscape</p> 	<p>Overgrown vegetation</p>	<p>Cut back overhanging branches and thick shrubs so they are 10 inches or more away from the building. Create a vegetation-free zone around the perimeter of the building. This perimeter should be three-feet wide and made from durable materials, such as landscape cloth covered by pea gravel.</p>
<p>Entryway, paved private property</p> 	<p>Cracks in pavement, sidewalks and concrete slabs</p>	<p>Remove cracked, crumbling or loose concrete with a small hammer and chisel. Seal using a putty knife and concrete sealant with epoxy or latex compound (works best on cracks 1/8-inch wide or narrower.) For larger chips and cracks, use mortar mixes.</p>

# PEST PROOFING MATERIALS

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) targets building conditions that encourage pests to live and breed by focusing on good building maintenance and timely repairs. Sealing cracks and holes, fixing leaks and improving trash management deprives pests of food, water, shelter, and ways to get around. Many of these repairs are inexpensive and easily handled by owners, tenants and construction professionals. Use reliable, long-lasting materials to improve the quality of building repairs, and remember to always follow recommended instructions.

## 1 Refrigerator Door Gasket

Rubber seal around refrigerator door.

## 2 Sealant

Filler for cracks and crevices made of siliconized acrylic latex or ethylene copolymers. Sealant is more flexible, crack-proof, water-resistant and longer lasting than traditional caulk. Use the appropriate sealant for each repair; for example, use concrete sealant for repairs on concrete walls.

## 3 Galvanized Wool/Mesh

Used to fill holes around pipes. Copper lasts longer and is more rust-resistant than steel wool.

## 4 Rodent Barrier Cloth/ Hardware of Stainless Steel or Copper Mesh

Materials that act as barriers for rodent burrowing and nesting. Remember to wear gloves when handling.

## 5 Escutcheon Plate

Plates that fit snugly around plumbing and electrical pipes near wall penetrations to prevent pest access. Generally made of stainless steel.

## 6 Backer Rod

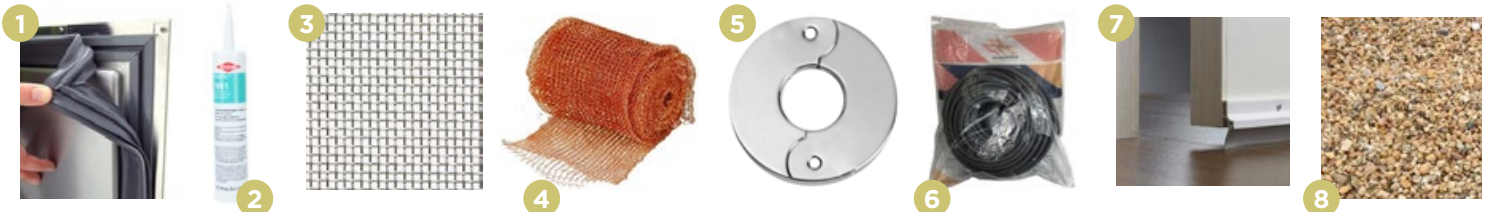
Tube-shaped material that is used to help fill larger gaps and cracks.

## 7 Anti-Pest Door Sweeps/ Thresholds

Door sweeps block out rodents by closing gaps underneath exterior doors.

## 8 Pea Gravel

Loose gravel that separates landscaping from the building foundation and discourages rodent burrowing.



# PEST MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES DURING BUILDING RENOVATIONS



Pest proofing during renovation saves time and future costs by reducing pest complaints, minimizing the destruction caused by pests and increasing the quality and value of the renovations. It also makes the building healthier for residents. During renovations, look for opportunities to fix leaks and moisture problems, seal cracks and holes and use pest-resistant materials.

## Before Renovation

Hire a pest management professional (PMP) with experience in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to inspect the building, review pest sightings, report pest conditions and ways to eliminate them.

### Common IPM recommendations include:

- Sealing holes and cracks
- Fixing leaks and repairing water damaged areas

Talk to the PMP and the renovation contractor about combining pest control activities with the upcoming renovation.

### Be sure to:

- Incorporate pest proofing measures into the renovation scope of services.
- Track progress by creating a list of pest proofing tasks that must be completed.

## During Renovation

- Seal gaps in walls, floors and joint areas using non-toxic sealing methods such as window screens, door sweeps, escutcheon plates and elastomeric sealants.
- Use rodent and corrosion resistant screens such as copper, stainless steel or rigid metal cloth for openings greater than ¼-inch.
- Keep trash receptacle lids secured with no overflow for daily trash and weekly collection.

Residential Apartments Focus on closing cracks and gaps. Mice can squeeze under a door gap the width of a pencil (¼-inch).

### Remember to:

- Reduce gaps around door edges and along thresholds when installing doors.
- Install door sweeps on front and main entry doors.
- Seal entry points for water pipes, radiator pipes, risers, gas lines and electrical lines.
- High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) vacuum and wash walls to remove any pest debris before installing cabinets or kitchen appliances.
- Install cabinets with doors that close tightly.
- Seal edges between cabinets and walls. Seal any holes or cracks around appliances.
- Seal baseboards and molding along floor and wall edges.
- Repair water-damaged areas and fix leaks.

## Common Areas and Exteriors

---

- Check the building exterior for holes, cracks, gaps and crevices. Thoroughly seal all openings, especially in foundation areas.
- Make sure the trash and recycling area is big enough to store the proper number of receptacles with secure lids.

### Compactor Rooms

- Resolve compactor pest issues before dismantling the compactor or compactor room.
- Seal area during renovations to prevent pests from finding shelter in adjacent apartments.
- Install compactor chute doors that are large enough to fit a full garbage bag.

### Renovation Work Areas

- Make sure garbage cans are available on site for the workers and are emptied daily to avoid pests.
- Make sure food wrappers and other waste are not thrown into wall voids.

## After Renovation

---

The pest management professional should identify any problem areas that need attention and address remaining concerns before building management makes apartments available to residents. Keep pest control records and adopt a building-wide pest management policy that specifies how to inspect for and prevent pests.

### Provide this information to residents.

- Promptly fix structural and sanitation problems.
- Consult with the PMP about safe pesticide use for persistent pest problems.



## USING PESTICIDES AND RODENTICIDES

---

Pesticides are designed to kill “pests,” but some pesticides can also cause health problems in people. The likelihood of a health effect depends on the type of pesticide being used and the chemicals in the product, as well as the amount you are exposed to and how long or often you are exposed.

These toxins should only be used in a safe manner by a licensed pest control professional.

### **Short-term exposure to pesticides may result in:**

- Eye, throat and nose irritation
- Headaches
- Dizziness
- Trouble breathing
- Nausea
- Long-term, ongoing exposure to pesticides may result in increased cancer risk and other serious health problems.

## PEST AND PESTICIDE LAWS FOR BUILDING OWNERS AND PROPERTY MANAGERS

---

Building owners and property managers are required to keep apartments and common areas free of pests. Spraying chemical pesticides alone does not get at the root of pest problems. While pesticide application can sometimes be an appropriate response to pest infestations, it should be used in combination with other pest management methods such as pest proofing and improved sanitation.

Building Property owners must hire a licensed professional to apply pesticides since pesticides contain chemicals that may harm people, pets, and the environment. Chemical pesticides should always be used sparingly and according to the directions on the label.

- Never use foggers or bombs. The chemicals land in places people cook, eat and play.
- Never purchase or use a product without a manufacturer’s label.
- Never buy pesticides from street vendors.
- Never use a product for a different insect or rodent than is named on the label.
- Always store chemicals safely in the original containers according to the label directions.
- Keep children and pets away from all pesticides.

Always review the reason for any pesticide application and the associated risks with the pest management company.

Pesticide use is regulated by local, state, and federal laws to reduce risks to public health and the environment.