RODENT PROOFING CHECKLIST

The most important part of a rodent control job is a thorough inspection of the problem areas/building. Since we warranty the control of rodents with our standard pest control service agreement, we need to conduct a thorough rodent proofing survey (inspection) to find out what rodent we are dealing with, where the rodents are feeding, nesting, and traveling, and supportive information such as how rodents are entering the building and other conducive conditions. This is not only logical, but it makes good business practices and increases the value of our service and our professionalism.

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Confirm which rodents you are dealing with by circling the target pest:

ROOF RATS NORWAY RATS MICE

Generally, these rodents are coming in from the outside, although a rodent population can establish itself inside a building and never need to go outside.

SYSTEMATIC INSPECTION

Customer interview | Inspect interior | Inspect the exterior

CUSTOMER INTERVIEW

You need to ask questions that will help you with your investigation:

- Where are they seeing evidence?
- Where are they hearing noises?
- If they have seen a rodent, which way did it run?
- Have they recently had a construction project done in their home? Ex: Has a new air conditioning unit been installed?
- What, if any, control tools have already been used?

USING FORM 1201 “Rodent Proofing & Attic Estimate” look for: Signs (e.g., droppings, rub marks burrows) and causative conditions (e.g., improper refuse storage, pet food). Record data on the form.

TAKE YOUR TIME TO DO A GOOD INSPECTION AND DOCUMENT ALL YOUR FINDINGS.
### INSPECT THE INTERIOR.

- **Look for rodent droppings, rub marks, paw prints**
- **Look at entry points into the structure such as pipes, electrical lines, and gaps---line entries**
- **Inspect for structural conditions such as door gaps, sealing problems, pipes, wiring going in and out of the building, vents in the subarea and the attic, sub area, possible roof entry---type of roof---in the structure, attached garages, and storage areas.**

### INSPECT THE EXTERIOR.

**POSSIBLE EXTERIOR ENTRY POINTS INCLUDE:**
- FOUNDATION GAPS
- DRYER VENTS
- DAMAGED SCREENS
- DAMAGED FLASHING
- FAULTY GUTTERS
- CHIMNEYS
- WEEP HOLE AREAS
- ATTIC VENTS
- DOOR GAPS
- PIPE ENTRY POINTS
- WIRE ENTRY POINTS
- MISSING BRICKS
- CRACKS IN SLAB
- BAD WEATHER-STRIPPING

### EVIDENCE AND ENTRY POINTS TO LOOK FOR

- **Droppings will tell you of areas of activity.**
- **Rub marks on this vent shows rodent entry**
- **Rub marks found inside the building.**
Footprints can tell you the direction of travel and you can place your monitoring equipment along these paths. Best to pre-bait the traps and let the rodents become used to the idea of having available food before setting the traps to kill. Rats tend to be “cautious avoiders”—anything new in their surroundings will be approached suspiciously.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Are Dormer Vents sealed? Is it something to worry about?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Even though you might think it is sealed, there are gaps underneath the framework that allows rodent entry. You have to inspect it.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effectively sealing the gap will prevent the rodents from gaining access into the attic. Be sure not to leave any gaps around the wiring.</td>
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<tr>
<th>These structures lead directly into the attic area. If the T-Vents are unscreened, the rodent can enter by going underneath the hood of the vent as indicated by the red arrow.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Close up of the flexible hose leading to the T Vent. Exhausts air from the bathrooms. These vents can be sealed like you would a Dormer Vents by placing screen between the top of the hose, you remove the hose, and the bottom of the vent attaching the screen to the bottom of the roof.</td>
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Tile roofs can present a challenge. Look at the various roof elevations.

More Challenges! Sometimes they can get in underneath the metal flashing, or in the leading tiles at the peak of the roof.

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<tr>
<th>Exterior door has a gap at the bottom of the door. It is missing a threshold and a door sweep allowing pest access to the building. No keys required.</th>
<th>Proper seal on this door prevents pest problems from entering the building. They now need a key to enter.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Roll up doors often have a gap at the bottom corner of the door. Inspect these areas for possible access points. The center picture shows an exit door next to a roll up door that also has a gap on the left corner. These doors need a new door seal ---for Roll up doors, have the customer contact a roll up door company to make necessary repairs. Vortex is a good roll up door company to suggest to the customer to use for these repairs.
No matter the type of structure, after a thorough inspection, you have to factor in such things as sanitation, structural integrity, business type, current level(s) of pest infestation, potential for infestation, adjacent structures and exterior landscape should all be considered prior to a rodent control or preventative program.

**RODENT PROOFING** brings in extra revenue that can enhance year round work and help with some areas where termite work is slow. Rodent proofing also gives our customers year round prevention of rodents from entering their structure. Rodent proofing is a win for us and the customer.

### EXAMPLES OF TOOLS AND MATERIALS FOR RODENT PROOFING

#### WEATHER STRIPPING

For all weather stripping of residential, garage and commercial doors, Western is an authorized PEMKO dealer.

You can call PEMKO and order the appropriate door seal and threshold needed. You will need the dimensions of the door’s width, and the height to get the proper seal. If there are any questions, the PEMKO dealer representative can help you choose the right hardware.

The picture on the right is a Sample Board found at all Service Centers.

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<tr>
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<th>PROOFING MATERIALS:</th>
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<tr>
<td>y</td>
<td>Can be as simple or complex as you want</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>¼ inch hardware cloth</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Drywall</td>
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<td>Liquid nails</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Can be as simple or complex as you want</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flashlight</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Caulking gun</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tape Measure</td>
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SUB VENT OR GARAGE VENT

Missing screen can be replaced with a new screen. Screens can be purchased at a hardware store.

The left hand picture shows a damaged screen, perhaps it was torn or a pipe or wire is going through it.
You can measure the tear and cut up a piece larger using ¼ inch steel mesh and basically attach it to the existing screen using 16 gauge wire to attach the new piece onto the existing screen.
You will need a pair of wire cutters as well as a pair of pliers to help twist the wire.
Center picture shows the new piece being attached and the picture on the right is the finished product.

You can also take a larger piece of ¼ inch steel mesh and cover the entire vent from the inside, as shown on the left picture. The other method is to create your own vent by bending a flat piece of ¼ inch steel mesh and creating a box. Once you have the screen vent, you can then insert it into the cavity as shown on the pictures on the right and attach with a staple gun or screws depending on the surface of the framework.
DORMER VENTS

As a general rule and in particular with tile roofs, Dormer Vents usually have gaps on the roof level around the tiles. The picture on the left shows concrete being used—see the arrow—on the valleys to block off possible entry since the vent is directly on top of the tiles. In inspecting the vent from the attic area, you can see gaps around the screen in the louver section as pointed in the center picture—the welding in these areas do not adhere properly and rodents can come inside the attic. The picture on the right hand side shows an attempt at rodent proofing but it has been removed to allow access for wiring, this can happen in remodels or installation of cabling.

The picture on the left shows clearly how the Dormer Vent has been installed—directly on top of the tiles. Rodents simply go underneath the Tile Roof and enter the building. The best thing to do is to seal off the vent by placing a sheet larger than the cut on the plywood directly underneath the vent as shown in the center and right pictures. Care should be taken not to use screws when securing the mesh into the ceiling as these can puncture the plywood and cause leaks. Best to use staples to secure the mesh against the plywood ceiling.

T- VENTS

T-Vents are usually open on top and if the roof can not be accessed, then the job has to be done from underneath in the attic just like the Dormer Vent. The picture on the right shows the ¼ inch mesh installed at the roof level.
Underneath all T-Vents is a flexible pipe like the one shown above. The area around the pipe is larger than the pipe allowing rodents to enter the building. The easiest solution and without having to get on the roof is to seal the entry by going into the attic. The flexible pipe is usually suspended and all that has to be done is remove it so that the opening is clear. Once the area is clear, a piece of \(\frac{1}{4}\) inch steel mesh can be attached to the ceiling of the roof and the flexible pipe can be reinstalled.

**DRYER VENTS**

Dryer Vents are not to be screened as shown above because of FIRE HAZARD. This vent needs to be checked and if the flap is open as it is in the right and left pictures, the vent needs to be replaced. You want to make sure the flap is closed as shown in the center picture, this position is correct when the dryer is not being used, otherwise, the flap is open while the Dryer machine is on.
In the field you can encounter all kinds of examples where line items as shown above enter buildings with room to spare for rodents and other pests to access the interior of the building. The techniques in closing these gaps are the same, and with experience you will encounter better methods in sealing these large gaps such as the one in the center picture.

Depending on the area that you want to seal, you can use a variety of materials from:

- ¼ inch hardware cloth
- Weather stripping
- Steel wool
- Stucco patch
- Drywall
- Wood
- Liquid nails
- Metal flashing

Above are two examples of the use of ¼ inch steel mesh (hardware cloth), in the center and to add strength and aesthetics. The picture on the right has stucco patch that has been added on top of the steel mesh. This reinforces the patch by using the mesh underneath the stucco, rather than just applying stucco around the pipes. If rodents try to go through the stucco patch alone, they will penetrate. The added steel mesh does not allow them access should they poke a hole in the stucco applied. EXPANDING FOAM is not to be used in any rodent proofing job. Rodents can easily penetrate this foam and it does not look good as it is very messy while applying it and when it is dry.
DOOR SWEEP AND THRESHOLDS

All doors leading to the exterior need to be protected by door “sweeps or seals” along the bottom of the door. The seals need to extend beyond the door to close all gaps. The installation has to be exact so it does not interfere with the operation of the door. Sometimes, the level of the cement is not correct and there may be instances where reconfiguration of the door, the floor, or the sweep installation needs to be adjusted to provide a tight fit. The door has to be measured and the proper seal installed. Seals can be obtained by calling PEMKO. At each SC there is a Sample Board of PEMKO Products available. Consideration also needs to be taken in terms of color of the door and a matching seal to go with it.

The brush sweep is probably the best type of seal to use as it lasts longer and provides a good coverage. They seal the bottom of the door, as well as both sides of the door. Tools you need for this job are:

- Flashlight
- Drill
- Drill bits
- Screwdrivers
- Pliers
- Hacksaw
- Tape Measure
- Vise Grips