

# Hantavirus Prevention

## Seal Up! Trap Up! Clean Up!

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### Seal Up!

Seal holes inside and outside the home or building. Look for gaps:

#### Inside

- Inside, under, and behind kitchen cabinets, refrigerators and stoves.
- Inside closets near the floor corners.
- Around the fireplace.
- Around doors.
- Around the pipes under sinks and washing machines.
- Around the pipes going to hot water heaters and furnaces.
- Around floor vents and dryer vents.
- Inside the attic.
- In the basement or crawl space.
- In the basement and laundry room floor drains.
- Between the floor and wall juncture

#### Outside

- In the roof among the rafters, gables, and eaves.
- Around windows.
- Around doors.
- Around the foundation
- Attic vents and crawl space vents.
- Under doors.
- Around holes for electrical, plumbing, cable, and gas lines.

### How to seal:

Fill small holes with steel wool. Put caulk around the steel wool to keep it in place. Use lath screen or lath metal, cement, hardware cloth, or metal sheeting to fix large holes. These materials can be found at your local hardware store. Fix gaps in trailer skirtings and use flashing around the base of the house. Outbuildings and garages should also be sealed to prevent the entrance of rodents.

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### Trap Up!

Trap all live rodents. Contact professional pest control companies, if needed.



- Choose an appropriate snap trap. The CDC does not recommend using glue or live traps.
  - Carefully read instructions before setting the trap.
  - When setting the trap, place a small amount of peanut butter (approximately the size of a pea) on the bait pan of the snap trap.
  - Position the bait end of the trap next to the wall so it forms a "T" with the wall. Rodents prefer to run next to walls or other objects for safety and do not like being out in the open.
  - Set traps in attics, basements, and crawlspaces and other areas that do not have regular human traffic where there is evidence of frequent rodent activity.
  - Place traps in outbuildings and in areas that might likely serve as rodent shelters.
- If you trap inside your home, but do not seal up rodent entry holes, new rodents will enter the dwelling.

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### Clean Up!

After 1 week of trapping, if no more rodents are captured, enough time has passed for the urine/droppings or nesting material to not be infectious.

- \*Wear gloves
- \*Soak droppings with disinfectant before picking up with paper towel
- \*For heavy infestations, use gloves, goggles, protective clothing and a respirator, or \*have a pest removal company assist with clean up



- Clean up rodent food sources and nesting sites
- Keep food in thick plastic or metal containers with tight lids.
- Clean up spilled food right away and wash dishes and cooking utensils soon after use.
- Keep outside cooking areas and grills clean.
- Always put pet food away after use and do not leave pet-food or water bowls out overnight.
- Keep bird feeders away from the house and utilize squirrel guards to limit access to the feeder by squirrels and other rodents.
- Use a thick plastic or metal garbage can with a tight lid.
- Keep compost bins as far away from the house as possible (100 feet or more is best).
- Keep grains and animal feed in thick plastic or metal containers with tight lids. In the evening, uneaten animal feed should be returned to containers with lids.

### For More Information Contact:

Your personal healthcare provider

Utah Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology  
801-538-6191  
<http://health.utah.gov/epi/diseases/hantavirus/>

Centers for Disease Control  
<http://www.cdc.gov/hantavirus/>

  
**Utah County**  
HEART of UTAH  
Health Department