



Phone: 0861999900 Fax: 012 3467453 29 Hazelwood road, Hazelwood, Pretoria, Gauteng, 0081

How to set up a mass trapping programme for Mice

When you have a widespread, heavy mouse infestation, it's tempting to up your order for rodenticide bait. But a large mouse infestation usually means that there is plenty of food already available, so you'll have a hard time getting mice to feed on your bait. This kind of situation lends itself very nicely, though, to a mass trapping programme using snap traps.

Mass-trapping is labour intensive, requiring that large numbers of traps be set each evening in commercial accounts. Then, sometimes hundreds of traps have to be checked and re-set in the morning. Repeat the process for a few more days rest, and repeat again a week later! But mass-trapping is probably the most effective way to knock down a large rodent infestation.



Mass Trapping Guidelines

- Make sure you have enough traps and an adequate work schedule to do the job.
- Install many more traps than you think necessary. For 50 mice, you'll probably need 100-200 traps. Use expanded trigger snap traps.
- Wear disposable gloves when installing and servicing the traps to eliminate human odours on the traps, and to protect yourself from rodent pathogens and parasites.
- Try a variety of food baits and nest materials, such as cotton balls, to see which work best. Make sure you offer a bait that matches what the mice are feeding on in the account. Baits may not even be necessary to get results.
- Overkill the programme early. Put all the traps out at once. Many more mice will be captured the first night than on any other night.
- Don't worry about placing your traps evenly spaced around a room. It's more effective to cluster traps in mouse activity areas (feeding areas, runways, and wherever you find droppings).
- Use double and triple trap sets so mice can't jump over the traps. Set traps parallel and next to each other, about 2.5 cm apart.
- Traps can also be placed inside rodent bait or trapping stations in more visible locations. You can also supplement your snap traps with multiple-catch traps.
- Trap for a few days, then leave the traps unset a few days or a week before "shuffling" them into new positions and resetting them. This down time and trap relocation will improve your catch when you resume trapping.

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