



Inspecting for Pests

Town Health Officer Training

Some Pest Principles



- Pests can create allergens and spread disease.
- Some ways to prevent pests: block entry, control food, water, and places for shelter.
- Using pesticides improperly can lead to poisonings and other neurological problems.

Role of the Town Health Officer



- ❑ Pests may at times present a threat to the public health in a community.
- ❑ THO may need to inspect to determine whether there is a violation of the Rental Housing Health Code.

Examples



Public Health Threat

- Improperly stored garbage/waste on or in a property that is attracting rodents or other pests and leading to an infestation. *

Rental Housing Health Code Violation

- Rodent or insect infestations within a rental property.

***If the town health officer is unsure whether or not rodents or insects pose a public health problem, they should contact the Vermont Department of Health's Infectious Disease Unit at 1-800-640-4374 for clarification.**

Definition: Rental Housing Health Code



Chapter 5 Environmental Health

Subchapter 16, Rental Housing Health Code

Infestation: Means the presence of rodents, cockroaches and other insects that creates a health hazard.

Health Effects from Rodents and Pests

Rodents

- Historically, rodents have been associated with:
 - ▣ Histoplasmosis
 - ▣ Hantavirus
 - ▣ Plague
 - ▣ Salmonellosis (carriers)
 - ▣ Leptospirosis

Pests Overall

- Some pests are associated with asthma or asthma symptoms:
 - ▣ Dust mites
 - ▣ Cockroaches
 - ▣ Mice dander

What pests can present a problem?



Cockroaches

Bedbugs



Rats and mice

House flies

Mosquitoes

Dust mites



Fleas

Applicable THO Inspection Form Questions



- Question 4.1: Home free of visual evidence of insects?

- Question 4.2: Home free of visual evidence of rodents and other vermin/pests?

- For each question – is there evidence of:
 - ▣ Infestation?
 - ▣ Fecal droppings?
 - ▣ Insect or vermin bodies?
 - ▣ Chew (gnaw) marks?

The Inspection

What to look for

- ❑ The pest or pests
- ❑ Pest droppings and chew marks
- ❑ Nests and burrows
- ❑ Food sources
- ❑ Hiding places
- ❑ Warm cavities for insects
- ❑ Spaces/holes around pipes
- ❑ Holes in walls or foundation

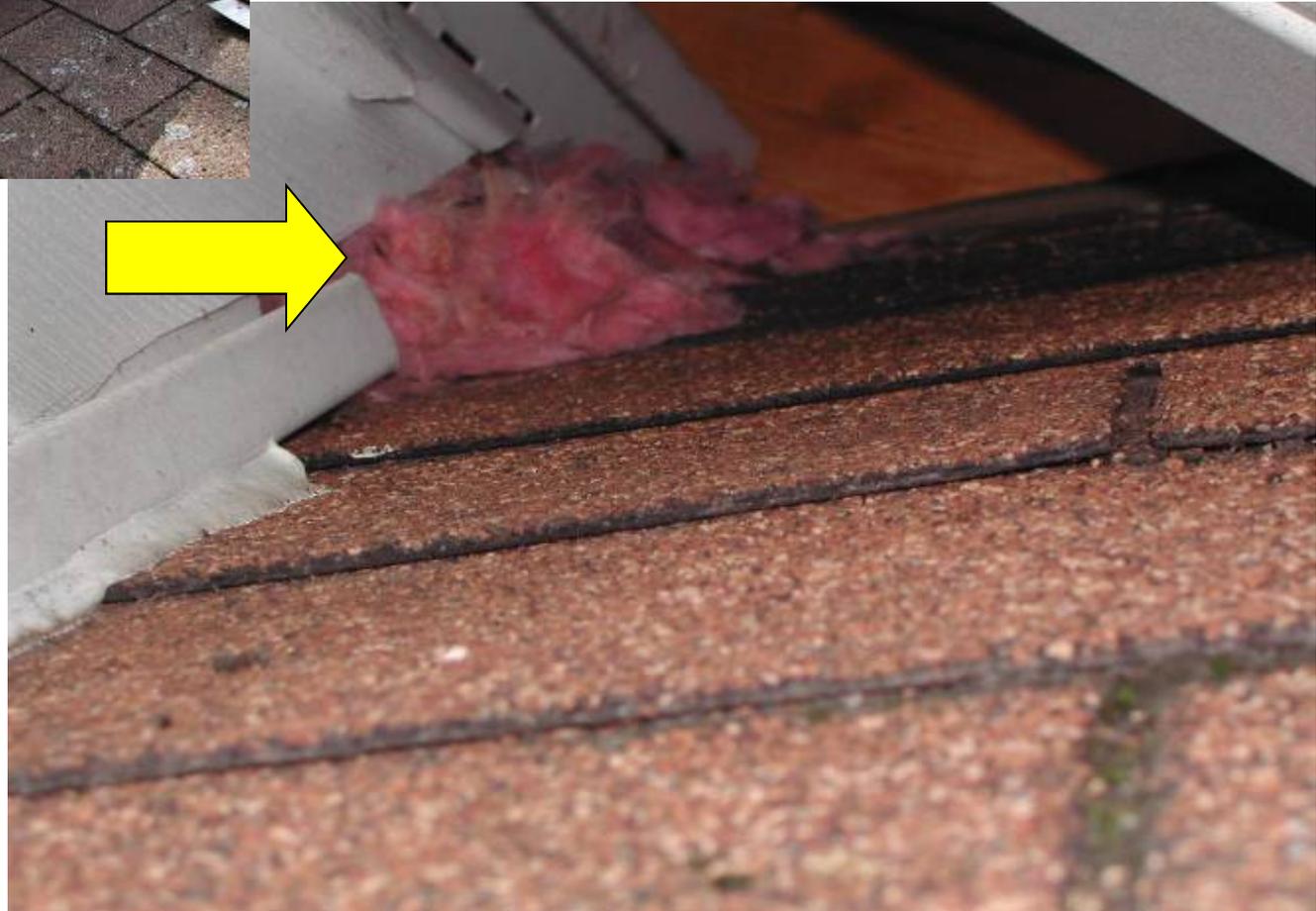
Where to look

- ❑ In kitchens, around trash bins, under sinks
- ❑ Inside walls, under/behind cabinets, under baseboards
- ❑ Inside TVs, computers, smoke alarms
- ❑ Basements, attics, crawlspaces
- ❑ Near where outside entry holes have been identified

Inspection Observations



Bat, Rodent and Raccoon Entry



Holes in Wall



Droppings

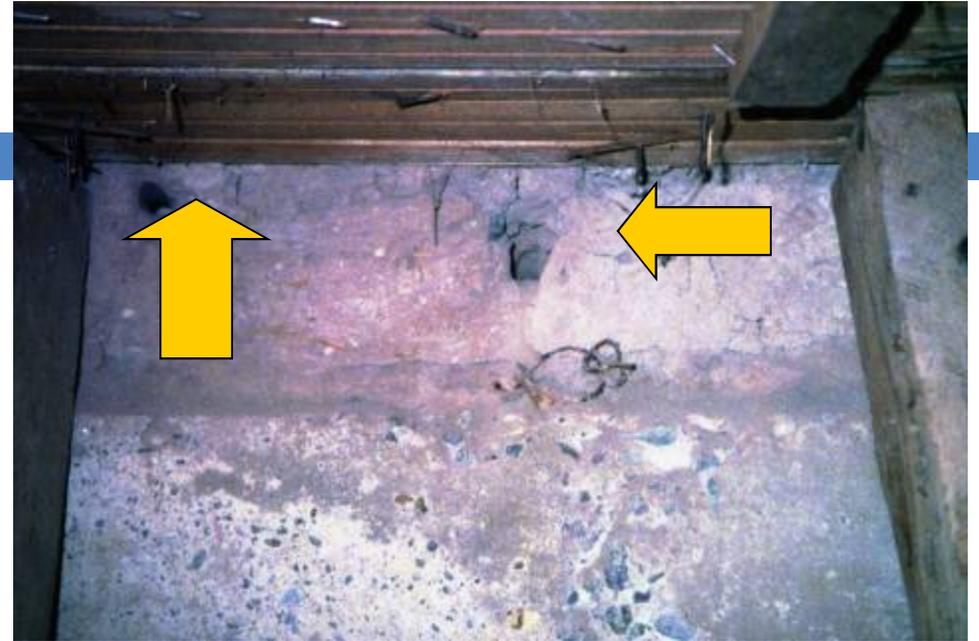
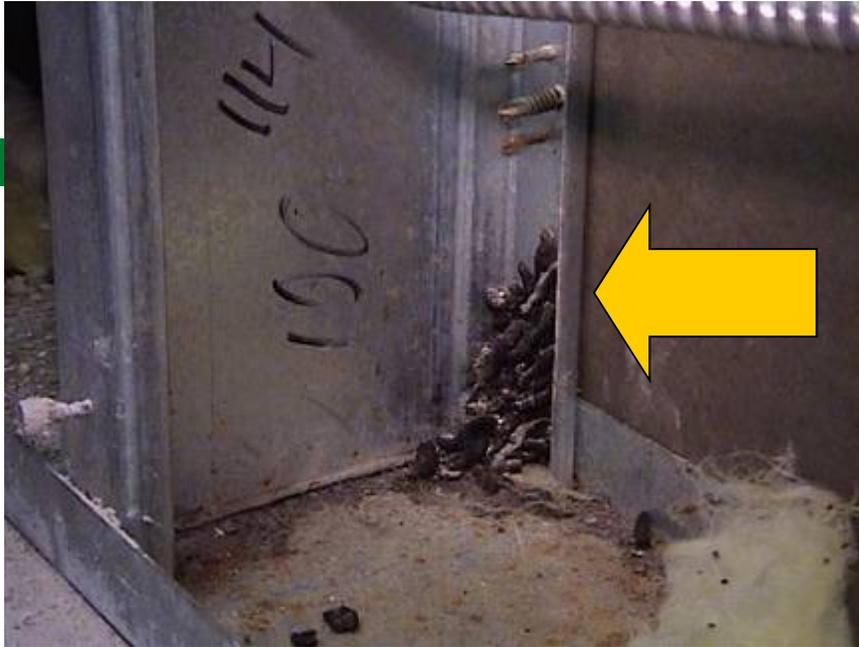


Power cord on desk

Mouse droppings







Applicable Rental Housing Health Code

Owner Responsibilities

- ❑ RHHC, § IV, A(1): Owner maintains all common spaces free from rodent and insect infestation
- ❑ RHHC, § IV, A(2): Owner responsible for extermination in common spaces
- ❑ RHHC, **§ IV, A(3)**: Owner exterminates when infestation in dwelling unit caused by owner's failure to maintain the dwelling or when infestation is in two or more units
- ❑ RHHC, § IV, A(4): Owner of rooming house responsible to maintain all rooming units free from infestation and for extermination

Occupant Responsibilities

RHHC, § IV, B: Occupant maintains unit free from infestation and exterminates when infestation caused by occupant except when **§ IV, A(3)** applies

Extermination

- ❑ RHHC, § IV, C: Describes how extermination will be accomplished

THO Inspection Follow-up



- If Rental Housing Health Code violation is found, inform the landlord

- Request voluntary compliance from the landlord
 - ▣ Remove food and water sources
 - ▣ Remove points of entry
 - ▣ Exterminate using professional pest control operators

Other Advice for Preventing Re-infestation



- Reduce food sources and degrease
- Vacuuming
 - ▣ Hard to reach locations and places pests frequent
 - ▣ Direction of work: work from top to bottom
- Washing hard surfaces and floors
 - ▣ De-grease oven, stove, and counters
 - ▣ Two-bucket method
 - ▣ Spray-bottle application

Questions?

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Credits and Resources



Some slides and most photos provided thanks to:

- National Center for Healthy Housing

For more information: www.nchh.org

- Bed Bug Information

<http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/bedbugs/index.aspx>