

# Prevention

In some cases, mice are inevitable. They can enter your apartment unnoticed when you open your front door, or through cracks and crevices in your walls that you aren't even aware of. You can minimize your chances of an infestation, or a recurrence of an infestation, by taking these steps toward prevention.

- **Steel Wool.** Mice cannot chew through steel wool. Search your apartment for openings in the wall, especially in the areas where pipes enter your walls, and stuff any gaping holes with steel wool.
- **Clean, clean, clean.** Don't leave dirty dishes in your sink, ever. Sweep or vacuum beneath your table after eating a meal. Become sensitive to crumbs on your counters and floor.
- **Keep a lid on your garbage can.** The garbage is a source of interest to mice, as well as other pests. Also, empty your food garbage daily if it's an option.
- **Put all boxed and dry food in a hard, plastic container.** Mice won't usually enter your fridge, but they will find ways into your cabinets. Assume that anything in a cardboard box or a bag is a potential food for a mouse—this includes items like tea bags.
- **Never open your windows without a screen in place; buy a draft stop for your front door.** During times of extreme temperatures, like in very hot summers or very cold winters, mice will try to enter your home through cracks beneath your front door and through open windows. Keep your apartment secure with screens and draft stops.
  1. Keep your home clean. Store food in airtight containers.
  2. Try a natural deterrent, such as peppermint oil.
  3. Consider getting a pet cat.
  4. Block holes inside and outside your home.
  5. Make use of humane traps and release the mouse away from your home.