

## **FAST FACTS**

- Female mice can give birth when they are two months old and are able to have babies 6 to 10 times per year.
- Mice have to build their homes near sources of food because they like to eat 15 to 20 times per day.
- Mice are good jumpers, climbers and swimmers.
- House mice, like other rodents, do not vomit.

## **General Information**

The house mouse is the most common rodent pest in most parts of the world. A female house mouse can give birth to up to a dozen babies every three weeks. That's 150 babies a year!

<b>Size</b>	2"	<b>Common Name</b>	House Mice
<b>Shape</b>	Round	<b>Kingdom</b>	Animalia
<b>Color</b>	Light brown to black	<b>Phylum</b>	Chordata
<b>Legs</b>	4	<b>Class</b>	Mammalia
<b>Wings</b>	No	<b>Order</b>	Rodentia
<b>Antenna</b>	No	<b>Family</b>	Muridae
		<b>Genus Species</b>	Musculus Domesticus

## **Diet**

House mice primarily feed on plants, but they will also eat meat and dairy products. They will drink water but require very little of it. They will eat their own droppings to acquire nutrients produced by bacteria in their guts!

## **Habitat**

House mice live in structures, but they can live outdoors. They breed throughout the year and often share nests with their "relatives".

## **Impact**

Even the smallest amount of mouse urine can trigger allergies, particularly in children because their immune systems are still developing. Mice spread disease through bite wounds and by contaminating food and water with their waste products. Mice can also spread disease thanks to **parasites**, such as ticks, fleas and mites. These parasites bite the infected mouse and then spread the disease by biting humans.

## **Prevention**

- \* Mice eat 15-20 times a day, so keep your homes clean and don't leave food out.
- \* Be sure to empty kitchen and household garbage cans frequently.
- \* Make sure that your home and storage areas are clean and dry.
- \* Make sure that you clean your sheds, crawlspaces, and garbage cans often.
- \* Close up any small holes and cracks they can come in through.

To learn more about this and other mice, visit <http://www.pestworldforkids.org/mice.html>