

EXAMINER

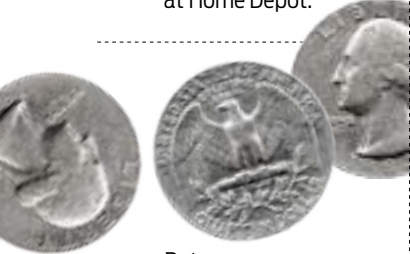
# Eek, a Mouse!

FOR YOU, FALL IS SWEATER SEASON. FOR RODENTS, IT'S TIME TO MOVE INDOORS. BY ELIZABETH GEHRMAN



## OCTOBER

marks the start of the peak sales period for rodent control products at Home Depot.



Rats can squeeze through openings the size of a **quarter**.



Mice can squeeze through openings the size of a **dime**.

## 2020

The next Year of the Rat in the Chinese zodiac

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM SHUTTERSTOCK; SOURCES: ORKIN; NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION; BOSTON INSPECTORIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT; PESTWORLD.ORG; HOME DEPOT

**40%**  
Percentage of mammal species that are rodents

**150**  
Most rats ever found by Boston's Inspectional Services Department in an occupied dwelling, a hoarder's one-bedroom unit

**3 WEEKS**  
Time it took to eliminate the colony

**42 to 60**  
Number of offspring a female house mouse can produce annually

"BUILD A BETTER MOUSETRAP AND THE WORLD WILL BEAT A PATH TO YOUR DOOR."  
—UNKNOWN (BUT *NOT* RALPH WALDO EMERSON)



**29%**  
Percentage of US households that have had a problem with rats or mice at one time or another

**35%**  
Percentage of households in the Northeast that have had rodent troubles

**21 MILLION**  
Estimated number of US homes that will have rodents this fall or winter

**MOST COMMON RODENTS IN THE BOSTON AREA: NORWAY RATS AND HOUSE MICE**

**16 INCHES**  
Typical length of a Norway rat, including tail

**8 INCHES**  
Typical length of a house mouse