PURPLE MONKEY
PESTCONTROL

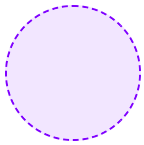
FREE CHECKLIST · NORTHEAST PA HOMES

Keep mice out this winter.

A room-by-room checklist for older homes around Scranton and Wilkes-Barre.

Every fall, as it gets cold, mice start looking for a way inside. A lot of homes around here are older, with stone foundations, porches and small gaps around pipes and windows. **Those gaps are the way in.**

A mouse can squeeze through a gap the size of a dime. Grab a flashlight and a dime, and give yourself about 30 minutes.



If a dime fits, a mouse fits.
Circle shown at dime size when printed at 100%.

1 Outside walk-around

~10 min

- [ ] Gaps where pipes, cables, the gas line and A/C lines go into the house
- [ ] Cracks and loose mortar in stone or block foundations
- [ ] Dryer and exhaust vent flaps: do they close all the way?
- [ ] Garage door: daylight under the bottom seal or at the corners?
- [ ] Under the porch, deck and steps, where the house meets the ground
- [ ] Firewood, leaf piles and mulch against the walls (move them back)
- [ ] Branches and shrubs touching the house or roof

2 Basement & utility area

- [ ] Gaps around the sill plate, where the wood frame sits on the foundation
- [ ] Holes around the water line, sewer pipe and sump pit
- [ ] Basement windows and window wells: cracked panes, gaps in the frame
- [ ] Birdseed, grass seed or pet food in bags on the floor (move into sealed bins)
- [ ] Cardboard boxes stacked against the walls, a favourite nesting spot

3 Kitchen

- [ ] Gaps behind the stove, fridge and dishwasher where lines come through the wall
- [ ] Under the sink, around the pipes
- [ ] Pantry: cereal, crackers, flour, rice and pet food in hard containers, not bags
- [ ] Crumbs under the toaster and along the bottom of the cabinets

4 Attic, walls & garage

- [ ] Attic vents and soffits: torn screens or gaps
- [ ] Where the roofline meets the walls
- [ ] Garage: open bags of seed, fertilizer or dog food
- [ ] Gaps around the door between the garage and the house

Found gaps? How to close them is on the back.

5 How to close the gaps you find

- **Small gaps and holes:** pack with steel wool or copper mesh, then caulk over it. Mice chew through caulk, foam or tape on their own.
- **Doors:** fit a door sweep, or replace a worn garage-door seal.
- **Larger holes:** use metal flashing or hardware cloth.
- **Don't seal a mouse in.** If mice may already be inside, check the signs below first.

Signs you already have mice

Tick any of these and sealing alone won't fix it. The mice inside need to come out first.

- ☐ Scratching or scurrying in the walls or ceiling, especially at night
- ☐ Small dark droppings in cabinets, drawers, behind appliances or in the basement
- ☐ Chewed food packaging, wires or wood
- ☐ Shredded paper, insulation or fabric (nesting material)
- ☐ Grease marks along walls and baseboards where they run

When DIY stops working

Traps from the hardware store catch a few mice. They don't stop the next ones from walking in. Call a pro if:

→ you're still catching mice after a week or two of trapping
→ you've found droppings in more than one room
→ you can hear them in the walls or ceiling
→ you can't find, or can't reach, where they're getting in

> *"After a few weeks of trying everything on the market, Purple Monkey came in, assessed, then set traps and I haven't seen a mouse since."*
>
> **Christine J.** · Google review

Gaps I found

Where	Dime fits?	Sealed	Date

Want a technician to do the walk-around?

We find where mice are getting in, remove the ones already inside, seal the entry points we find, and come back to check that the activity has stopped.

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