

# Cleaning An Area

## Where Mice Have Been?

Though rare, some mice may have a virus that can cause serious illness in people.

The virus can infect people if they inhale dirt and dust contaminated with mouse urine or droppings, such as when people stir up dust while in storage units, cabins, and sheds.



Image from the Centers for Disease Control

*Some deer mice are carriers of hantavirus which can cause severe illness in people.*



*air out*

## Cleaning Recommendations

**Before a shed, cabin, or other area with mouse droppings is cleaned, the area should be aired-out thoroughly by opening the windows and doors for at least an hour before cleaning begins.**

*use gloves*



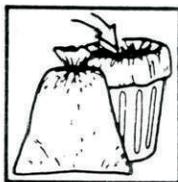
*don't vacuum or use a broom*

*get wet with disinfectant*



*wipe up with towel soaked in disinfectant*

*double bag and throw away*



1. Wear latex or rubber gloves.
2. Mix a solution of 1 part bleach to 9 parts water or use a store-bought solution that says "disinfectant" on the label.
3. Do not vacuum, sweep or dust any areas that have signs of mice. This may spread the virus through the air. Use rags, sponges and mops that have been soaked in the disinfectant solution.
4. Thoroughly spray or soak any dead mice, droppings, or nesting areas with disinfectant.
5. Wipe down counter tops, cabinets and drawers. Mop floors and baseboards.
6. Steam clean carpets, rugs and upholstered furniture.
7. Wash clothes and bedding in hot water and detergent. Dry the clothes in a dryer set on high, or hang outside to dry.
8. To dispose of contaminated items, including dead mice, put them in a plastic bag. Seal the bag and put it in another plastic bag. Seal the outer bag and put in your outdoor garbage can.
9. Disinfect or throw away the gloves you used.
10. Wash your hands and/or shower with soap and hot water.

**For more information on HANTAVIRUS**

**Benton-Franklin Health District**

[www.bfhd.wa.gov](http://www.bfhd.wa.gov)

509.460.4200

**Washington State Department of Health**

[www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov)

**Centers for Disease Control**

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

# Clean Safely

to prevent illness

