







Cleaning Up After Rodents



**County of Santa Clara
Vector Control District**
1580 Berger Drive
San Jose, CA 95112
Mon– Fri, 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
(408) 918-4770
vector.santaclaracounty.gov
vectorinfo@cep.sccgov.org
[@sccvcd](#)    

District Services

Our licensed technicians are available to conduct an outdoor home inspection at no cost. During the inspection, they will provide advice on appropriate baiting and trapping procedures, locate possible entry points, and provide guidance on repair. To schedule an inspection, please call our office at (408) 918-4770, or submit a service request online at vector.santaclaracounty.gov.

Need help identifying if those are rodent rub marks, feces, or gnaw marks? Photos can be emailed to vectorinfo@cep.sccgov.org for identification.

How to Clean Up Rodent Droppings and Urine

Rodent droppings (feces) around your property can be a sign of a rodent infestation. It is important to clean up rodent urine, feces, and contaminated areas in a manner that minimizes the potential for stirring up dirt or dust.

Personal Protective Equipment

- Gloves: Latex, rubber, or plastic.
- Respirators or dust-masks.
- Disinfectant: A general-purpose household disinfectant or homemade bleach solution. If store-bought, ensure the label has the word “**disinfectant**.”

Homemade Bleach Solution

- Create a bleach solution with 1.5 cups of household bleach in 1 gallon of water (or a 1:9 solution, 1 part bleach to 9 parts water).
- Prepare the bleach solution fresh each time it is needed.

Cleaning Procedure

1. Put on personal protective equipment.
2. Thoroughly spray urine and droppings with bleach solution or store-bought disinfectant until area is soaked. Allow disinfectant to sit for at least 5 minutes.
3. Use paper towels to absorb the urine and disinfectant, then dispose of the paper towel and droppings in a garbage bin that is regularly emptied.
4. After soaking up the urine and removing the droppings, repeat steps 2 and 3 on the contaminated areas to ensure they have been fully disinfected.
5. Before removing gloves, wash gloved hands with soap and water or disinfectant.
6. Remove gloves, and wash your hands with soap and water.

For additional information on rodent clean-up, visit cdc.gov/rodents/cleaning

Avoid these Cleaning Methods

- **Do not** use the following methods as they may cause viruses from rodent droppings to contaminate the environment:
 - Sweeping, vacuuming (even with a HEPA filter), or a high-pressure sprayer.