BugByte Academy

TRAINING BUILT FOR PEST CONTROL TEAMS.

FIELD IDENTIFICATION / QUICK REFERENCE

Know your rodents.

Compare the animal. Record the evidence. Confirm the identification.

01 ROOF RAT

Rattus rattus



ILLUSTRATED COMPARISON / NOT TO SCALE

BUILD

Slender body; pointed muzzle.

EARS

Relatively large and prominent.

TAIL

Longer than head and body combined.

Often associated with climbing routes, trees and upper building spaces.

02 NORWAY RAT

Rattus norvegicus



ILLUSTRATED COMPARISON / NOT TO SCALE

BUILD

Heavy body; blunter muzzle.

EARS

Smaller in proportion to the head.

TAIL

Shorter than head and body combined.

Often associated with burrows, foundations and lower building spaces.

03 HOUSE MOUSE

Mus musculus



ILLUSTRATED COMPARISON / NOT TO SCALE

BUILD

Small adult body; pointed muzzle.

EARS

Large relative to the head.

TAIL

Long and sparsely haired.

Can nest in sheltered spaces close to food; an adult is much smaller than an adult rat.

IDENTIFY WITH MORE THAN ONE CLUE.

Juvenile rats can resemble mice. Color, droppings or location alone do not confirm a species. Compare several visible features and seek a qualified identification when uncertain.

OBSERVE

From a safe distance.

RECORD

Location and visible features.

CONFIRM

Use multiple clues.

ESCALATE

Ask when uncertain.

Educational comparison of common adult commensal rodents. Do not capture or handle an animal to use this guide.

References: UC IPM, Rats (June 2025) and House Mouse (July 2025). Reviewed October 25, 2026.

ipm.ucanr.edu/home-and-landscape/rats/ | ipm.ucanr.edu/home-and-landscape/house-mouse/