

# Holiday Hints

## Is There A Mouse In The House?

(NAPSA)—'Twas the night before Christmas and all through your house, not a creature was stirring...not even a mouse? Rodents invade an estimated 21 million American homes each year, studies show. If you'd like to have a mouse-free house this holiday season, you need to take action now, experts agree.

Winter's chill commonly sends rodents scurrying indoors, seeking warmth, food, safe hiding places—and often causing extensive damage. According to Heidi Fuentes, R&D Manager, d-CON® Rodenticides, "It's wise to set baits and traps even before you actually see a rodent. Whether directly or indirectly, rodents can be hazardous to the health of your family because they are potential carriers of numerous diseases, including salmonella, trichinosis, leptospirosis and the often deadly hantavirus."

In fact, the rodent control experts at d-CON® Rodenticides offer the following list of telltale signs that rodents have invaded your home:

- Check for rodent droppings in undisturbed areas of the home, such as storage areas, attics, garages, under baseboards and along walls. Mouse droppings are typically ¼ of an inch in length and black in color. Rat droppings are a bit larger, usually about ¾ of an inch long.
- Be aware of signs of recent gnawing on packaged foods, cardboard boxes and in areas around



**Winter's chill often sends rodents indoors.**

pipes, ducts and vents.

- Take notice if your dog or cat paws excitedly at a kitchen cabinet, the base of your refrigerator or a wall.
- Listen for scampering or gnawing sounds late at night from the attic, basement, behind the walls or other undisturbed areas of the home.
- Take notice of burrows or nests that may be spotted in the ground along the outside of your home. Check pathways for tracks where you suspect rodents run.

Using quality Rodenticides such as those from d-CON® can help control your rodent problem. Place traps and bait stations in areas where you suspect mice to be hiding, out of the reach of pets and small children. Be sure to stop up any holes or cracks with steel wool and plaster. Consult an exterminator if necessary. You can find d-CON® Rodenticides at many stores and home centers. For a free brochure on rodent control and prevention, you can call 1-800-395-3266.