Rodent Structural Exclusion Checklist

Evidence-based Integrated Pest Management (IPM) | Non-commercial educational printout

Scope & Prevention Focus:

A comprehensive inspection protocol for sealing foundation gaps, garage door thresholds, and roofline vents to prevent mice and rats from entering residences.

1. Structural Entry Gap Inspection

- [ ] Check all foundation vents and crawlspace access doors for openings exceeding 1/4 inch.
- [ ] Inspect garage door bottom rubber weather seals; ensure full ground contact across entire width.
- [ ] Audit AC refrigerant line penetrations and gas pipe entry points through exterior walls.
- [ ] Verify roof vents, attic ridge vents, and chimney flashing have intact wire mesh screening.
- [ ] Check crawlspace sub-floor access doors for tight latching without gnawing margins.

2. Mechanical Exclusion Materials Guide

- [ ] Pack pipe gaps with coarse stainless steel wool or copper mesh (rodents cannot chew through wire).
- [ ] Cap wire mesh with exterior-grade elastomeric sealant, silicone, or hydraulic cement.
- [ ] Do NOT use expanding polyurethane foam alone; rodents easily chew through cured soft foam.
- [ ] Install heavy-duty galvanized metal kick plates along gnawed wooden door jambs.

3. Food & Attractant Elimination

- [ ] Remove fallen tree fruit, birdfeeder seed spillage, and open pet food from yard areas.
- [ ] Keep outdoor municipal garbage cans tightly closed with secure locking lids.
- [ ] Store grass seed, bird feed, and fertilizer in sealed metal or heavy-gauge plastic cans.