



# TIPS FOR HOMEOWNERS

## Expelling Uninvited Guests

(NAPSA)—Whether Mother Nature has wreaked havoc on homes or a neighbor has been bitten by the remodeling bug, Americans nationwide have embarked on massive construction and reconstruction efforts. In fact, a recent Home Improvement Research Institute report found that 52 percent of recent homebuyers completed one or more improvements within the first year of purchase and half were planning at least one more project within the next year.

Any time ground is broken, whether by construction or otherwise, its natural inhabitants, mice and rats, who once made their homes outdoors, will begin traveling indoors seeking food, water and shelter. Some tell-tale signs of infestation include scampering or gnawing sounds late at night and droppings in noncongested areas. If your cat or dog paws excitedly at the base of your refrigerator or walls, it may be because of the smell of vermin.

Mr. Fix-It, Lou Manfredini, offers the following tips on ways to help avoid rodent infestation:

- Mice can squeeze through spaces as small as a dime. Be sure to inspect your home and seal up all potential entrances with steel wool, sheet metal or cement. Or better yet, seal holes and cracks with clay mixed with cayenne pepper. It's a taste they won't forget.

- Keep piles of firewood or debris away from the foundation of your home and trim all bushes



### When remodeling, beware of mice and rats.

and trees that are near the house to prevent rodents from nesting in these areas. Additionally, be diligent about trash removal, it only provides another home for pests. Sprinkle a little powdered laundry detergent near the foundation; rodents do not like the smell.

- Never leave food or water out overnight, even for your pets. If your pets do their business in the backyard, make sure to pick up after them daily.

- Be proactive and keep a supply of d-CON Rodenticides on hand. Regular baiting and trapping helps deter rodents. If you squirm at the thought of removing a dead rodent, try d-CON's No View, No Touch™ Mouse Trap, which kills the mouse and keeps it concealed in the trap for clean and easy disposal.

For more information on rodent prevention or for a free brochure, call d-CON at 1-800-395-3266.