

# Hints For Homeowners

(NAPSA)—Now that allergy season is upon us, cleaning your home can be the first step to help combat the usual triggers. Since rodents are known to aggravate allergies and asthma, it's important to check for any signs of unwanted critters. Rodents are nocturnal creatures, which means they usually don't surface during the daytime hours. Rats and mice live in groups, so if you see one during the day, there may be as many as 20 to 40 more nearby.

"Spring is the time of year to give your home a good sweep—from the basement to the attic," says national home improvement expert, Mr. Fix-It, Lou Manfredini. "In addition to your usual chores, it's important to check for signs of rodents. As you prepare for your annual cleaning, keep the following tips in mind and you'll be multitasking your way to a rodent-free home."

- Caulk any cracked walls or other areas around entry points to the home—This is especially crucial in the warm spring and summer months when rats and mice will be searching for water. Mice can squeeze through spaces as small as a dime.

- Clean up with bleach—Bleach is a great antiseptic that can kill the bacteria that rodents may have left behind. Mix one part bleach to 10 parts water and wipe down your kitchen counters, cabinets and drawers.

- Prevent and eliminate infes-



tations with rodenticides—Be proactive and regularly use baits and traps that are safe when used in accordance with label directions, such as products by d-CON<sup>®</sup> Rodenticides. Consumers who squirm at the thought of removing a dead rodent can choose the newest d-CON trap, No View, No Touch<sup>™</sup>, that kills the mouse and keeps it concealed in the trap for a clean and easy disposal.

- Replace all broken or missing drain covers—Rats can enter your home through the sewer and drain system.

- Never leave your pet's food and water out overnight—Put all food, water and garbage in metal or thick plastic containers with tight fitting lids. This will protect and organize your items at the same time.

For more information on how to handle a rodent infestation or for a free brochure, you can call 1-800-228-4722.