
VERTEBRATE PESTS

[continued from page 120]

filter. Attention must be given to ensuring the vacuum is performing properly and that the HEPA filter is replaced when necessary. Various suction tips can be employed for vacuuming fecal pellets in large scale as well as for accessing fecal pellets within cracks and crevices. Personal protection equipment should also be worn by personnel assigned vacuuming tasks.

SUMMARY. This topic is applicable for many reasons. But let's consider only one application as prompted by the refreshing change to the upcoming summer. Summer camp season is nearly upon us and thousands of camps around the globe are getting ready for a deluge of happy, summer camp-eager boys and girls, all destined for their beds and cots in cozy cabins tucked away in the woods and along lakeshores. I'm sure it comes as no surprise that it is common for various field rodents and small mammals living around camps to share the same cozy cabins during the off-seasons when humans are not around.

The salient question is whether or not residual feces of these mammals such as the ubiquitous house mouse inside our buildings, cabins and so forth, poses any significant health threat. Thus far, comprehensive research addressing this question has not been done. Fortunately that is about to change. The National Pest Management Association and the Professional Pest Management Alliance have agreed to jointly fund a study to profile some of the microbial organisms found in house mouse feces in everyday "real-world" accounts. The study is underway as you read this. The results of this study should be interesting to not only pest professionals, health officials and indoor hygienists but to the general public on a global basis. 🐭

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