

Editor's note: Readers are encouraged to ask their most confounding condo questions to our resident condo specialist: Maria Bartolotti.

ASK MARIA

By Maria Bartolotti



UNWANTED GUESTS

What to do when you see mice in your condo

Q Dear Maria, there's a mouse in my condo unit. Help!

A You might have noticed some unwanted guests this winter, and no we're not talking about the in-laws. I'm talking about mice. Cold weather drives these little critters indoors to seek warmth, which could lead them straight into your condo and if they find a food source, guess who's moving in.

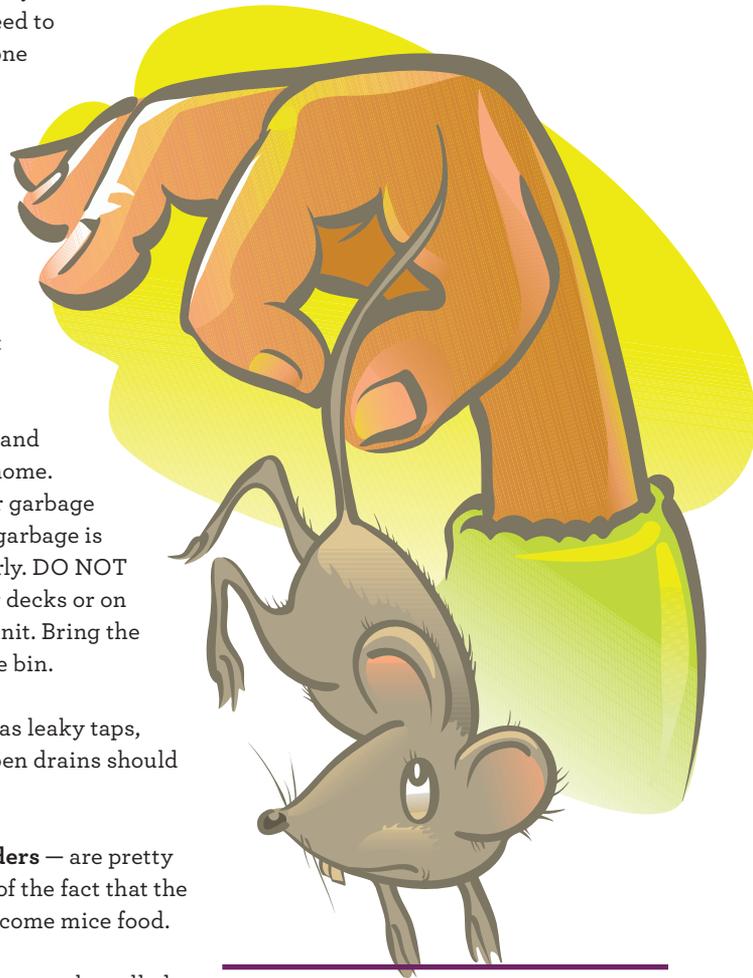
If you are a resident who lives in a condominium apartment and you see evidence of mice inside the common property, you should notify the property manager of the building. Your property manager can work with your condo board to take the necessary steps to help deal with the problem. In most if not all cases, a pest control company will be hired to investigate and help maintain the common areas for mice activity in a condo, which can help reduce the frequency of mice inside the building and in your unit.

Here are some helpful hints that may help discourage and keep mice out of your unit.

- **Seal possible entries** — Mice can get through small tiny holes. It is best to seal around pipes and holes inside your apartment.
- **Stick steel wool in mouse holes** — Steel wool pads will prevent mice from using the same hole to get back into your home before caulking or plastering.
- **Try a humane trap** — These are traps that catch mice in a box. The mouse can

get in but not out. Once you catch the mouse; you will need to release them at least one mile from your home.

- **Keep your home clean** — if there is nothing to eat, they will be less likely to stay. In other words; keep all food stored properly in an airtight containers.
- **Trash** — Mice smell it and get attracted to your home. Keep lids shut on your garbage can, and ensure your garbage is being emptied regularly. **DO NOT** leave garbage on your decks or on the floor inside your unit. Bring the garbage directly to the bin.
- **Water source** — such as leaky taps, sweating pipes and open drains should be addressed.
- **Bird and squirrel feeders** — are pretty to have but, be aware of the fact that the same offerings can become mice food.
- **Pest control company** — can be called if you would like to obtain more help or advice.
All mice need is a little crack in a wall or foundation to get in. Being proactive and taking the necessary steps to help protect your home from these little critters, may stop the problem.
Until next time... **CL**



Maria Bartolotti is the owner-manager of New Concept Management Inc. She has developed a strong reputation for rendering timely and efficient services to the condominium industry. Maria believes that her company's success hinges on her hands-on approach to condominium management as well as maintaining open lines of communications with her clientele. Maria is actively involved in her industry. For more information, visit www.newconceptmanagement.com