

# Repel, Exclude, Deter

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## I. Repel

1. *Mice*: Plant a border of mint varieties, lavender, sage, marigolds, snapdragons, geraniums, amaryllis.  
Got mice in your car?  
See this link on our website - [PoisonFreeMalibu.org/#cars](http://PoisonFreeMalibu.org/#cars)
2. *Ground Squirrels/Gophers*: Plant daffodils, narcissus, most irises, dahlias.  
Sour clover (*Melilotus indicus*) is a nitrogen fixer and has 8 foot long roots that repel gophers and ground squirrels. It was used in orchards for rodent control before the advent of pesticides.  
See [poisonfreemalibu.files.wordpress.com/2017/12/gopher-stopper-clover.pdf](http://poisonfreemalibu.files.wordpress.com/2017/12/gopher-stopper-clover.pdf)
3. *Predator urine*.
4. *New Products*. New organic products are on the market which include balsam fir, peppermint, clove, cinnamon, hot pepper.  
Castor bean granules and oils have been reported to work well with ground squirrels and gophers.
5. *Professional-level deterrents* for mice and rats are available.
  - *DeTour* repellent contains white pepper.
  - *PRO-PELL* is made up of essential oils that contain the smells and tastes that rodents hate. The oils bind to the foundation and are not easily washed off.

## II. Exclude

1. Seal all buildings. Do it yourself or hire a rodent exclusion company, not a pest control company. A rodent exclusion company's business model

is based on solving your problem, not continuing it with monthly poison dispensing charges.

2. Do not overfill trash cans or dumpsters and make sure the lids are tightly closed and no spillage on the ground.
3. Maintain a tightly closed barbecue and clean after every use.
4. Maintain garage doors with door sweeps. Seal all entry points.
5. Avoid glue traps. They are cruel and inhumane. References:
  - Humane Society: [www.humanepestcontroltips.com/sticky-glue-mouse-traps](http://www.humanepestcontroltips.com/sticky-glue-mouse-traps)
  - People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals: [www.peta.org/issues/wildlife/wildlife-factsheets/glue-traps/](http://www.peta.org/issues/wildlife/wildlife-factsheets/glue-traps/) and [www.peta2.com/news/mouse-glue-traps/](http://www.peta2.com/news/mouse-glue-traps/)
  - CARE2: [www.care2.com/causes/7-humane-alternatives-to-glue-traps.html](http://www.care2.com/causes/7-humane-alternatives-to-glue-traps.html)
  - Wildcare: [wc.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=TakeAction\\_GlueTraps](http://wc.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=TakeAction_GlueTraps)
6. Never use traps outside your home!
7. Underground Barriers.
  - For rats: A pea gravel trench barrier 6 inches deep in the ground and 2 feet wide.
  - For ground squirrels and gophers: From 18 inches to 3 feet deep and 2 feet above the ground. Make an L-shaped bottom with 1/4 to 1/2 inch gauge stainless steel hardware cloth lining the trench.
  - Use 1/4 to 1/2 inch gauge stainless steel hardware cloth to line your entire garden.
  - Here is a company that supplies wire mesh: [gopherslimited.com/wire-roll-installation/](http://gopherslimited.com/wire-roll-installation/)
  - I personally have taken the advice of a seasoned expert who told me to break up ground squirrel burrow holes with a rod and then pack them down solidly. The squirrels do not like their burrows to be disturbed and they will eventually move on.

### III. Deter

1. Encourage biodiversity. Animals that eat and frighten rats, mice, gophers and ground squirrels - coyotes, domestic dogs and cats, foxes, and bobcats all monitor and capture at rodent burrow entrances; skunks, rattlesnakes, and gopher snakes corner rodents in their burrows. Owls and hawks capture above ground.
2. *Ground Squirrels/Gophers/Mice/Rats*: Consider owl boxes (one owl eats 1000 rodents a year!), and raptor nesting platforms. See our website [poisonfreemalibu.org/#owls](http://poisonfreemalibu.org/#owls)
3. Leave outside only enough pet food for one feeding, this includes bird seeds. Pick up fallen fruit, use tree cuffs metal, plastic on large trees.
4. Remove piles of debris, vegetation, and plants that feed and conceal rodents, such as ivy.
5. Motion detector water sprays, music, strobe lights also work well.

*Beware!* A pest control company will tell you a fear story as to why you should have poison bait boxes outside of your home. Rats DO NOT die inside the poison bait boxes, they freely go out and poison other wildlife. Exclusion and sanitation is the SOLUTION for your home, not poisoning the environment outside.