

# Information to reduce the chance of pests in your storage unit

A little effort can go a long ways towards protecting your items while they are in storage. Anything worth paying to store is worth protecting it while it's stored. Although you might do everything in your power to eliminate unwanted pests, you have to make sure that those in neighboring units are doing the same. It definitely pays to pay attention to pest control. There are some things that you can do to ensure that those unwanted pests stay far away.

Think about the condition of the things that you are putting in storage. If it is furniture then you must make sure that you vacuum it really good and eliminate any crumbs, debris and stains down in the cracks and crevices. These things just leave a breeding ground for bugs and mice that will catch a scent of it eventually. Thoroughly clean appliances, large and small, for the same reason. Those crumbs in the toaster tray, the food stuck on small appliances or pans invites in problems you don't want. Clean means nothing to attract bugs or mice and without food and shelter they will not stay.

Don't be afraid to use contained insecticides. Roach and ant baits can be an inexpensive thing to put in the corners as you don't know what others have stored in their storage sheds. Use mouse and rat baits, or traps with peanut butter instead of cheese. Don't use the traps if you don't check it regularly, leaving one sit in the trap doesn't catch others after the trap is sprung. Catnip is said to repel ants, lavender repels moths, sage repels slugs and mint can be effective against many kinds of pests. Mint and tansy are said to repel mice, although tansy can cause allergic reactions in some people.

Storing food is highly discouraged because it attracts pests. Boxed foods and plastic bags simply offer no resistance to mice and bugs, resulting in an infestation of pests that no one wants. Make sure up around the top there are not holes that birds can get into. Having a bird trapped in a storage unit can be very messy and unpleasant! Some units are not protected from heat and freezing, and not only can the items become damaged but anything under it also. This, in turn, can attract pests due to the oils or dampness. If you must store items like this go for a climate controlled unit, which better protects all of your items.

Perishable food items should never be stored in self storage units. In fact there are specialized warehouses or storage units that do store items which are perishable in nature for a temporary period. It has been noted that storage units that store personal belongings do not encourage storage of perishable items. The perishable food items are vulnerable to insect and rodent attack. There can be a vermin infestation and the loss to the storage facility could be humongous. Also insurance companies do not provide any kind of cover for goods destroyed if they are stored with perishable food items.

100% peppermint oil has such a strong scent that is overpowers the noses of mice and rats and forces them to run away. You might want to keep that in mind for some of your best items. Place the 100% peppermint oil strategically around your storage unit or where the mice are believed to be and that should do the trick.

Here are some thoughts to consider about rodents and pests. An average-size rat can squeeze through a gap about the width of your pinky finger, an adult mouse through a gap the thickness of a small magazine. Many fire investigators say one quarter of all structure fires of undetermined origin are caused by rodents gnawing on electrical wire. Short of seeing a live rat or smelling a dead one, the most obvious sign of the non-rent-paying creatures is their droppings. Rodent droppings vary in size, from one-eighth of an inch to a half-inch. They are about the same shape and texture of a popular rice breakfast cereal.

Storage facilities have rules and regulations that must be followed. Now you can only do so much on your part but look around and make sure that management is doing their job too. Make sure they have trimmed vegetation away from the structure. Make sure there are no holes that are left open around the facility. Still today, after hundreds of years the best way to kill a rat is with a spring-loaded metal trap mounted on a scrap of wood.

## SMART TIPS FOR STORAGE!

### SmartTip #1

The first row is the best. Store items you'll need most often at the front of the unit.

### SmartTip #2

Request an aisle seat. When you pack your storage unit, create a center aisle for easy access to all your valuables.

### SmartTip #3

Do not place boxes directly on concrete floors, but use pallets or skids to allow air flow around and under items.

### SmartTip #4

If you're storing tables and other furniture, remove legs and store tabletops and sofas on end... to save space.

### SmartTip #5

Here's some straight talk. Old photographs tend to curl over time. To keep them flat, place them between two pieces of cardboard and tape them together.

### SmartTip #6

Drain gasoline and oil from lawn mowers and other items with small engines.

### SmartTip #7

Never store firearms, illicit drugs or drug paraphernalia, live animals, perishables, liquids, explosives, flammable liquids and fuels, toxic materials, or other items that need a controlled environment.

### SmartTip #8

Can it. The best place to store shovels, hoes and rakes is in the garbage can.

### SmartTip #9

Sleep tight. Mattresses should be covered and stored flat on level surfaces.

### SmartTip #10

When storing metal items wipe all metal surfaces with a rag containing a few drops of machine oil. This will help prevent rust.

### SmartTip #11

Pack blankets, draperies and dress clothes on the hanger in a wardrobe box.

### SmartTip #12

Remember to lock up. Always use high quality locks on your unit. Locks are available for sale at every Spare Room location.

### SmartTip #14

Stay high and dry. Always use the climate control for humidity-sensitive items.

### SmartTip #15

Whenever possible, place dressers and tables top-to-top to save space.

### SmartTip #16

Smartly seal your boxes with packing tape to prevent dust from getting into your belongings. No one likes a dusty belonging.

### SmartTip #17

Smartly wrap furniture legs with protective wrap, furniture covers or pads to prevent scratching.

### SmartTip #18

Label your boxes on all sides. Mark your delicate belongings "fragile" and store them on top of heavier unbreakable boxes.

### SmartTip #19

It's all about the negative space. Smartly use the empty spaces in stored furniture and appliances such as dresser drawers to store smaller items such as towels and linens.

### SmartTip #20

Don't overpack or underpack. Bulging cartons tip when stacked, while half full boxes tend to collapse.

### SmartTip #21

Books might make you smart, but large boxes of Shakespeare can be backbreaking. Instead of filling giant boxes with heavy books, mix in some lighter stuff.

### SmartTip #22

Clean and dry appliances before storing. Secure all movable parts with paper, or wrap a paper pad around each item for protection. During transport, tape all doors shut, but remember to wedge them open for storage.

### SmartTip #23

Avoid taking your book collection to the chiropractor. Pack books flat to protect their spines.

### SmartTip #24

Dreams aren't the only things that are fragile. Use a generous amount of paper to pack dishes and glassware.

### SmartTip #25

Know when to fold 'em. If you don't want to wrinkle your clothes, linens and draperies, don't fold 'em. Use wardrobe boxes, which allow for hanging.

### SmartTip #26

See the light. Pack lamps and lampshades in individual boxes. Use plenty of clean paper or cloth for padding.

### SmartTip #27

Pad mirrors and paintings with paper. Place them in special mirror packs or large boxes; mark boxes as fragile and store with other fragile items.