

Best Cheap Rat Traps Product Reviews

Do you have a rodent problem?

You should know that rats and mice are more than just disgusting and smelly. In its lifetime, the average rat has consumed more than 100 lb of food, so think of that if you're hosting a colony. Rats and mice gnaw through electrical wiring, increasing the risk of house fire. Next time an electric outlet mysteriously "stops working", these critters may be the reason.

Many homeowners have no idea that their heating and air-conditioning bills are astronomical because rodents have destroyed the insulation in the walls and ceiling. Nor do they realize that expensive roof leaks are caused by black rats damaging the tiles. Norway rats do even more harm; their excessive tunnelling underground damages house foundations and causes doors, interior walls and windows to shift over time.

Rodents are carriers of infectious diseases, some of which are air-borne and spread when the animal urinates to mark its territory. The average rat urinates 60 to 70 times a day and produces up to 40 droppings daily.

If you have a rat or mouse problem, you have to act now before the damages cost you even more. A pair of male and female rats can have 2,000 descendants in 18 months. Don't waste time experimenting for the best products on the market. We've done the comparing for you, so you can make a smart decision fast.

Tomcat Rat Snap Trap – Not Recommended

The Tomcat is an 8.8 oz. plastic trap with interlocking teeth that grab hold of the rat. It is not so easily triggered as the old-fashioned snap trap design, making it easier and safer for a person to clean out, rebait and reset. Unfortunately, it also makes it easier and safer for the rats to steal from.

The snap will not break a finger when you set it. By the same token, it isn't powerful enough to kill a large rodent either. The interlocking teeth grab hold of the rat, which can remain still very much alive and kicking. The product description says it is virtually impossible for the rat to escape; that seems true enough. We are not the only purchasers who have had to finish off a squeaking, bleeding, urinating rat dragging the trap all over the room by a wounded snout, hock or neck. One customer states that he had to have his carpet professionally steam cleaned to get the rat blood out.

When you read the product description, you may notice that Tomcat doesn't even claim to kill the rats. It only claims to "catch" them. It's then up to you to kill the critters. If the wounded rat doesn't make off with the trap altogether, that is.

To sum up, Tomcat was working on a good idea when it came to designing traps that won't smash customer's fingers or endanger their pets' paws. But this snap trap can be traumatizing when you see a wounded, frenzied rat plunging about the room, spreading blood and urine in its hours-long death struggle until you put a bullet in it or drown it. This rat trap is definitely a "nope".

Victor Metal Pedal Rat Trap –Highly Recommended

This wood and metal snap trap is based on the same design the company has been using since 1898. It's easy to set; simply fit the arm bar into the notch on the pedal, where the bait is, until it holds the kill bar in place, ready for the snap down. 99% of the time, the animal dies instantly with one powerful blow. It breaks bones, not skin, so there's no blood, gore or mess to clean up. Death is immediate and humane.

The trap is extremely easily triggered (which makes it tricky to reset until you get the hang of it), so we've had none of the usual trouble with stolen bait. We recommend that you use caution and wear rubber gloves when handling these traps, as the powerful kill bar is no joke.

We've been exceptionally successful with Victor; these traps practically wiped out our rat colony within weeks. It was normal to get six or seven kills per day. Because the trap delivers such a fast, clean kill, it's easy to dump out the corpse and reset. These things are effective for even the huge specimen; we had rats a foot long, not including the tail, and Victor snapped them away one by one. You could also use them for other large rodents, such as squirrels, gophers, etc.

The Victor company sells these traps for one-time use only, and because they are so cheap, it's reasonable if you don't like cleaning out a used trap. However, there's no reason why these traps can't be reused. Ours have lasted for years.

Victor's is basically the best you can get for a rat snap trap. It definitely tops our list of recommended rat traps.

Catchmaster Mouse Glue Boards – Not Recommended

The idea behind a glue board is that the pest gets stuck and can't get away. For anyone new to the rodent-hunting scene, glue boards aren't designed or intended to kill a mouse in any way other than perhaps starvation. You tape the board to the floor along the wall, in the pantry, or wherever a mouse is likely to visit, and the mouse gets stuck in the glue.

We tried the Catchmaster glue boards, but so far, we have nothing to show for our efforts except one tiny baby mouse and a lot of trapped fur, poop and paw prints. They are obviously leaving their calling cards in defiance of us. Moreover, these glue boards are peanut-butter scented to attract the critters, so unless you want your entire home smelling exclusively of peanut-butter, you may prefer an unscented method of de-mousing your house.

We've caught a lot of other small pests with the Catchmaster: cockroaches, centipedes, small geckos, etc. But these traps are ineffective when it comes to mice. Use Catchmaster for your bug / spider / lizard infestations, but not for your mouse problems, because all you'll get is a lot of fur and poop. We don't recommend this product.

Victor Power Kill Mouse Trap – Highly Recommended

These are designed with mice in mind; they are not for large rats. They are based on the same principle as the Victor Metal Pedal Rat Trap (see above); the bait pedal is triggered by a

mouse and the kill bar snaps down for an instant death. They are made of plastic, but unlike other plastic traps that we have found chewed up, Victor is triggered too easily for the mice to nibble at. The kill bar, of course, is metal.

We've had fantastic success with these little contraptions; we kept catching mice until the population was basically eliminated. Because these traps are especially intended for the smaller animals, the kill bar is designed to encompass the tiny mouse body, unlike some rat traps that let a small mouse slip through unscathed. Beware of the snap though; getting your finger caught will mean some bruising and ouch for a couple of days! So far, we've had a consistent 100% kill rate with no stolen bait.

I've heard a few people complain about the trap's plastic framework feeling cheap. I hear their concern: we live in a society where cheap often means flimsy. However, you're dealing with tiny mice here and the most important thing is that the trap is sensitive to their weight and snaps down hard enough to kill. You don't need a huge metal killing machine. The plastic framework in no way hinders the trap from getting the job done, and it's probably the reason why the price is so affordable.

Our Victor Power Kill Mouse Traps made it successfully to the top of our "Recommended" List. We give it thumbs up and would buy it again!

JT Eaton 409 Jawz Plastic Mouse Trap – Adequate but Mediocre

The 7.2 oz. Jawz mouse trap eliminates the critters with a high tension spring. This trap features a highly sensitive trigger, making stolen bait a rare occurrence (it's happened to some other customers, but not to us so far), plus a powerful snap, so most mice are killed instantly on contact. I have to admit I really like the setting feature; the trap can be reset with your foot while it's still on the ground, meaning no more handling of a used, germey trap. A small red indicator on the trap shows that it's set and ready to go.

However, the great facet of the no-touch setting mechanism is counterbalanced by the gory mess the trap can sometimes leave behind. The spring occasionally breaks the skin, leaving blood and gore on the trap itself. One little fellow got almost cut in half across the waist. Although I'm certain that death was instantaneous and therefore painless, this trap is not for the fainthearted. You must be prepared to get into contact with dead mouse meat and some potentially tough cleaning.

There's no guarantee that the mice will be caught neatly by the neck. We've had mice snapped into place by the head, neck, belly, etc. With Jawz, it seems random which body part actually gets caught. While this may not bother some people, it can be an issue with those on the squeamish side of the spectrum.

Also, the spring wears out after repeated use, so don't anticipate this trap to last for years. I have to admit that at the low price tag it comes with, I would rather call this aspect "to be expected" rather than a demerit point.

The Jawz Plastic Mouse Trap will help with eliminating your mice, and it's a cheap, effective way to get the unpleasant task done. But overall, there are better options out there.

Kness SNAP-E Mouse Trap – Mediocre

The Kness SNAP-E Mouse Trap is made of steel and tough polystyrene, and it sure looks like it means business. Although Kness strikes with a kill bar the same way the Victor Power Kill Mouse Trap works (see above), it's even easier to jettison the dead mouse. This trap has a lever that lifts the kill bar for you, meaning you don't need to get your fingers in and lift the kill bar up from the trapped corpse. Setting the trigger is significantly easier too, as this trap isn't so "trigger-happy" when it comes to your fingers.

Our Kness trap has caught several mice over time; however, the job was taking so long that we decided to have a closer look to see why. No wonder; you can tap the trap with a pencil and it won't go off! Obviously, this product only works for fat, heavy, overfed mice. If you're looking to catch the tiny, light weight kind, you'll have to look elsewhere.

That's not to say that some people don't prefer the price of an easier-to-set, less snappy contraption at the cost of a potentially lower kill rate. As one customer said: "If they keep stealing the bait, eventually they'll get fat enough to trigger the trap!" But as we're here to review rodent traps by their effectiveness in actually killing rodents, we have to give this trap a lower rating. Sorry, Kness.

Summary

After going through all the above products in heavily rat and mice infested sites, we've come to the conclusion that Victor offers the best of all.

Why?

The other traps will work to a degree in most cases. But if you're like us, you want a trap that's as hassle-free as it comes. You don't want blood, guts, or clean-up's. As for waiting for a chunky enough mouse to come along, you might ask yourself, are you truly serious about this whole thing? Or is it just a resigned gesture in the direction of sanitation?

Victor can be a little tricky the first time you set it, and you should wear protective gloves every time you handle the trap. But it doesn't take an engineer or a rocket scientist to get it set and ready to snap. Seeing that this so-called drawback is the very reason for Victor's success, it can hardly be called a "con." It's just part of the rodent elimination deal.

Victor is reliable, clean, fast and humane. Basically, there's a good reason why they've been in business for more than 100 years.

If you can only buy one kind of trap, we would recommend the **Victor Metal Pedal Rat Trap**. That's because the rat trap is so sensitive that even a miniscule mouse will trigger it, whereas the Victor Power Kill Mouse Trap, while excellent, doesn't have the size capacity for a rat. Get them together if you can, but if you want one and the same killing machine for both mouse and rat, then the Victor Metal Pedal Rat Trap is your best option.

