

## Use a Licensed Applicator to Control Rodents in Your Home

As the weather cools down, rodents like mice and rats look for warmer environments to seek shelter from the outdoors. If rodents invade your home or business, take action by hiring a pest management professional to eliminate these pests. You will want to make sure any individual you hire is properly licensed by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) to perform pest control work.

In Texas, licensed pest control applicators must go through proper training, subject exams and criminal background checks. However, there is always a possibility of individuals performing pest control services without the proper training, licenses and insurance.

To ensure your family is protected and rodents properly eliminated, remember the following when hiring a pest control applicator:

- **Ask for their credentials.** If the applicator does not have their license with them and/or their Texas Pest Control License (TPCL) number is not displayed on their service vehicle, this should be an immediate red flag. Do **not** sign any forms or contracts until you have checked the license status of the pesticide applicator and/or company.
- **Check their references.** It is always a good idea to have references on a potential pest control company or individual applicator. Check them out, and find out what others have to say about their service.
- **Get several estimates.** Talk with several licensed pest control companies and get estimates from each of them. This will help you make an informed decision on which company to use.

### Find a Licensed Applicator in Your Area

TDA has a [web-based tool](#) to locate licensed pest control companies in your area. [Click here](#) to find a company near you.

Additionally, TDA provides the public with a list of enforcement actions against licensed applicators over the last year. To view this list, [click here](#). Then, you'll need to type the word "structural" by in the program name box. Then select the *Structural Pest Enforcement Report*.