

SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR RODENT OWNERS

When caring for a pet rodent, it is important to keep the animal's cage and environment as clean as possible. A clean environment will help keep your rodent healthy and may prevent it from spreading germs to people.

CLEANING UP AFTER RODENTS:

To clean up any urine and droppings:

- Wear rubber, latex, or vinyl gloves when cleaning rodent urine and droppings.
- Do not stir up dust by sweeping or vacuuming up rodent urine, droppings, or nesting materials.
- Spray the urine and droppings with a disinfectant or a mixture of bleach and water and let soak for 5 minutes.
 - The recommended dilution of bleach solution is 1 part bleach to 10 parts water (10% solution).
 - When using a commercial disinfectant, follow the manufacturer's instructions on the label for dilution and disinfection time.
- Use a paper towel to pick up the urine and droppings, and throw away the waste in the garbage.
- After the rodent urine and droppings have been removed, disinfect surfaces and items that might have been contaminated by rodents or their urine and droppings.



When you are done cleaning:

- Remove gloves and put in the garbage.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.

SAFETY TIPS FOR YOU AND YOUR RODENT:

- **Wash your hands** immediately after touching, feeding, or caring for pet rodents or cleaning their habitats.
- **Keep pet rodents and their supplies out of the kitchen** or other areas where food is prepared, served, or consumed.
- **Play safely.** Do not kiss, nuzzle, or hold rodents close to your face. This can startle your rodents and also increase your chances of being bitten. Bites can spread germs and can make you sick.
- **You don't have to touch pet rodents to get sick from their germs.** Some of the germs they carry can be found in their saliva, feces, or urine. Germs can live in the rodent's bedding, urine, or feces and can get into the air when they are stirred up (e.g., by sweeping or vacuuming).

