

## Using Glue Traps to Catch Pests

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Glue traps are sticky traps used to catch crawling insects. They are inexpensive, non-toxic and work well to passively catch spiders, crickets, cockroaches, millipedes, centipedes, pillbugs and many other crawling pests. Larger ones can even catch mice, although baited snap traps are probably more effective.

There are two different types of glue traps: glue board traps and glue tray traps. Glue board traps are simply a thin layer of glue applied to a piece of cardboard. Glue tray traps are plastic trays which have a depression filled with glue.

Of the two types, the glue board traps are better for catching insects because they do not have to crawl up onto the platform. Glue boards are also more effective at catching mice. They may be a little harder to find, but, once found, you will probably find the glue board traps are less expensive. Two brands found in the Lincoln area are Catchmaster™ Mouse



Glue board traps (at left) are better for catching insects than glue tray traps (right).

and Insect Glue Board and Pic™ Mouse Glue Board. In larger stores, they may be found in the rodent supply section.

Place glue boards near areas where insects come into the house. They are ideal in basements. Corners of rooms are good because spiders and crickets head toward dark areas. If you catch a lot of bugs in a relatively short time, it may mean you need to seal cracks and crevices or take other measures to keep pests from coming indoors (see article at

right). Some glue boards can be folded up so they are covered, but unless conditions are very dusty, flat glue boards work best because more insects are likely to be captured on the sticky surface.

If you don't recognize what critters you've caught, bring glue boards to the UNL Extension in Lancaster County office, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln for free identification. Office hours are Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

## House Finch Eye Disease

House Finch are found throughout the United States. During the past decade, their populations have dropped in half in the eastern U.S. due to an infectious eye disease called House Finch Eye Disease (*Mycoplasma gallisepticum*). According to House Finch Disease Survey data from Cornell University, the disease is no longer an epidemic and the dramatic spread a few years ago has leveled out. It is still considered an important and harmful disease. American Goldfinch can also be affected by this disease. Both the House Finch and American Goldfinch are common in Lancaster County.

Birds with House Finch Eye Disease often have red, swollen, watery or crusty eyes. In extreme cases the eyes are so swollen or crusted over that the birds are almost blind. You'll usually see them on the ground under feeders trying to find seeds. The birds do not die from the disease, but from starvation or predators because they can't see.

Feeding birds does not drastically increase the spread of the disease, but you should still take precautions when feeding birds. Be sure to space your feeders widely apart to discourage crowding at feeders. When birds crowd at feeders, they are more likely to spread diseases.

If you see a diseased bird at your feeders, take your feeders down and clean them with a 10% bleach solution (one part bleach and nine parts water). Let them dry completely and then re-fill and hang them. Be sure to rake and clean-up any old seeds and bird droppings under the feeders.

Source: Cornell Lab of Ornithology, <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/hofi>



A House Finch with House Finch Eye Disease

Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Bird Population Studies Dept., 159 Sapsucker, Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.

### Have House Finches or American Goldfinches at Your Bird Feeders?

**Sign up now to participate in the House Finch Disease Survey.** The survey is an opportunity for you to help researchers track the spread of this infectious disease. The survey period is from November to February. There is no charge to participate.

The survey is easy to complete: participants record the visits of House Finches and American Goldfinches at their feeders and record any diseased birds, you then send your data to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

To request a survey packet, visit [www.birds.cornell.edu/hofi/index.html](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/hofi/index.html) and complete the online form. You can also email [housefinch@cornell.edu](mailto:housefinch@cornell.edu) or call (607) 254-2469 to request a survey.



House Finch



American Goldfinch (winter color)

Terry Spivey, USDA Forest Service, Bigwood.org  
Soni Cochran, UNL Extension in Lancaster County

## “Pest-Proof” Checklist

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Fall is a time when some insects and animal pests begin looking for overwintering sites. You should already be taking steps to keep pests from entering your home. Pest-proofing may not keep every mouse or spider from entering your home, but you'll reduce the chances these pests will be successful.

### Outside Your Home:

Cool, sunny fall days are perfect for working around the home and taking steps to prepare for winter.

- Seal cracks and crevices. This will help keep mice, snakes and insects from squeezing into your house. Use strong materials like caulk, cement or mortar. Do not stuff cracks and holes with rags – it just won't help keep pests out.
- Look for holes and other possible openings in your home and garage. If you find an opening and it is too large to be filled, cover the damage with hardware



1/4" hardware cloth

cloth. Hardware cloth is a flexible wire mesh that is both easy to use and inexpensive. Use hardware cloth with 1/4-inch squares—this will keep out most animal pests. If the opening was made by a

larger animal like a squirrel, be sure the animal is out of the building before making repairs and covering up the damage.

- Doors, windows and screens should fit tightly. Make repairs in window openings like windows and doors. In addition to keeping pests out, you'll also help lower your heating bills this winter.
- Check other possible entry areas. Inspect around your dryer vent, air conditioner and other possible entry areas for pests. Make sure cracks and openings are sealed or screened (do not block vents). Make sure your chimney cap is fitted correctly.
- **Outdoors:** This is a great time for a thorough backyard clean-up to help remove hiding places for insect and animal pests.
- Remove leaves and grass clippings around your home. Clean up any overgrown, weedy areas. Make sure you check window wells.
- Remove debris and possible hiding places. Dispose of old tires, bicycles and other debris from the yard.
- Check your trash cans. Make sure the lids fit tightly. If you are having a problem with rats or mice, consider metal trash cans with lids. Store trash cans away from the house because they will attract pests.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

UNL Extension in Lancaster County has resources on controlling pests online at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/pest>

## Last 2008 Household Hazardous Waste Collection

**Saturday, Nov. 15, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**  
State Fair Park (4-H Youth Complex)

These collections are for household only; not for businesses. Only residents of Lincoln and Lancaster County can bring items to collections.

### Some items you can bring for disposal:

Thermometers, thermostats containing mercury, solvents, oil-based paint, paint thinner, pesticides, (even banned products like DDT), items containing PCB's (ballasts from fluorescent fixtures and capacitors from old appliances). Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL's) contain mercury and will be accepted.

**Do not bring:** asbestos, tires, batteries, used oil, antifreeze, medicines, fertilizers, explosives and ammunition.

Still unsure what you have will be acceptable? Call the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department at 441-8040.