

It's "Moving In" Day for Mice

by Penny Keay

Cooler temperatures are here and I have been reading on Facebook that the mice are moving in to their winter time homes. Unfortunately for many of us it is also our home! (Not ours specifically - but you know what I mean.)

Anyone that lives in areas where the temperatures drop below freezing can all of a sudden see droppings and evidence that the mice have moved in. If you have a cat that is a good mouser you don't usually have to do much. Anyone else, well, you know what you have to do.

Now for those of us that don't have cats, then we have to have a little help to stall these furry little critters attempts at moving in. One suggestion that works well for us is placing several organza filled bags that have been filled with [Peppermint](#) scented [Aroma beads](#) or [Fiber Bits](#) at suspected entry points.

Scenting [Aroma beads](#) are very easy. Simply place essential oils and the unscented [Aroma beads](#) in a clean glass jar with a tightly fitting lid.

Use about 5 mL of [Peppermint](#) essential oils for every 1-2 ounces of [Aroma beads \(polymer beads\)](#). Tighten the jar and let the beads absorb the essential oils. This takes about 24-48 hours depending on how much essential oils you used.

Once the beads appear dry (they won't stick on the side of the jar) you can fill several [Organza bags](#). Use about 1 tablespoon of aroma beads per bag. Then place them in areas around the home where you have seen evidence of mice before. This usually will keep them away from kitchen counters etc.

An alternative suggestion would be to use [Fiber Bits](#) and soak them with [Peppermint](#) or [Peppermint](#), [Pennyroyal](#) or [Spearmint](#) too.

We prefer to use the scented [Fiber Bits](#) to use near our entrances. After we have soaked them sprinkle these on the ground near the threshold of any entrance doors. Mice don't seem to want to 'cross' over the strong scent.

Since [Fiber Bits](#) are made from natural cellulose fiber material they will degrade over time. So you don't have to worry about picking these up later as over time they will be absorbed into the soil.

To date folks have only found that [Peppermint](#) and [Spearmint](#) and [Pennyroyal](#) work but there may be other essential oils that will work too.

If you have used other essential oils to avoid the invasion of mice that has worked for you please share.

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