Mouse guards, barriers against mice using metal sheets and wire screen

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Mice travel along side walls at ground level, and smell and feel temperature difference in air leaking out from inside of building. They go for the corners. Use multiple traps along the inside wall of a building to isolate the area of breach.

Multiple traps deployed along wall in crawl space under a house
The following are examples of barriers against mice; experiment in progress:

**Example 1:** A removable 17 inch (43 cm) wide non-climb metal barrier was installed at the sliding barn door. The barrier was made by cutting a 3 ft (0.93 m) wide metal siding panel in half, lengthwise. Oil was wiped on the metal panel to reduce traction. Wrap aluminum flashing around at the bottom of wood stud.
**Example 2:** Non-climb barrier using 14 inch (35 cm) wide galvanized roof flashing surrounded a bag of meat and bone meal fertilizer on top of a pallet. Subsequently, no evidence of mouse activity inside the protected area found using this method.
**Example 3:** Non climb barrier using aluminum flashing attached to post and stainless steel tape attached to wire cable to prevent mice climbing up.
**Example 4:** Non-climb barrier using aluminum flashing surrounding a tree trunk as barrier against rodent and snake access to a bird house above the barrier; photo taken from a local wildlife refuge.
**Example 5:** A gap at the bottom corner of a building with metal siding allowed mice to gain entrance into a metal building. The step flashing seals corrugated ridges of the metal panels at the bottom. But at the corner, the step flashing was cut 90 degrees instead of overlapping 45 degrees, leaving a small gap for mice to gain entrance into the building.

**Bottom corner of metal siding with a gap in step flashing**

To block the mice entrance, remove the corner cover. Place aluminum wire screen under the corrugated gap at bottom corner. Caulk the aluminum screen in place. There was sufficient paneling for overlapping the corner sidings and fasten with a sheet metal screw to close the gap. Reinstall corner cover.
Corner metal cover removed to close the gap between 2 corner metal panels.
**Example 6:** There was insufficient nailing of metal panels to corner stud to close gaps between metal panel and stud. Remove the corner cover, fill the corrugated ridges with aluminum wire screen, and install more nails to close the gaps. Extra precaution for bottom sill plate area, as mice starts at ground level.
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Corner cover removed to expose metal siding

Large gap between metal siding and stud allow mice access.
Close the gap between metal siding and stud with additional nails. Install aluminum wire screen between corrugated metal siding and stud; and between sill plate and bottom of metal siding.
Example 7: Overhead door gasket shrunk over time, leaving a gap for mice to enter. Use pop rivets to attach aluminum screen around gasket. If there is a gap in the gasket, insert aluminum screen inside the gasket to fill in the gap.

Overhead door

in time, door gasket shrunk leaving hole for mice entrance

Close-up of bottom corner of overhead door. Aluminum wire screen was installed many years ago but over time the bottom gasket shrunk, leaving a gap for mice to enter the building.
Block mice entrance with aluminum wire screen. Wrap aluminum wire screen around gasket, and pop rivet it in place; fill in gasket gaps with aluminum wire screen.
Example 8: The concrete steps reposition over the years. Eventually, the intersection of concrete stem wall and concrete step loosen, allowing mice to chew through the sill plate.

Concrete steps at front entrance
Front masonry facade removed and reveal hole at corner of concrete stem wall and concrete steps. Wire probe inserted between stem wall and siding to confirm breach.
Example 9: Eventually, the galvanized plate covering the water pipe entrance through concrete stem wall corroded. Mice easily pushed aside the fiberglass behind the corroded galvanized plate to gain entrance into the crawl space. Replace the old cover plate with stainless steel plate. First, cover the copper water pipe with a plastic tube to prevent corrosion between 2 dissimilar metals (copper and stainless steel) before installing stainless steel plate.

Water pipe entrance into building

Wrap copper pipe with plastic tube then block the entrance with stainless steel plate