Cleaning up after Rodents:
⇒ Always wear gloves & wash your hands after cleaning.
⇒ Use WET methods of cleaning (dry methods will stir up dust that you don't want to breathe in!)
⇒ Use a disinfectant or a mixture of bleach & water. Spray product on dead rodents, nests or droppings BEFORE picking them up.
⇒ MOP floors, wet-clean countertops with disinfectant/bleach, steam clean affected upholstered furniture & carpets.
⇒ Dispose of items in a bag & into a covered trash can.
⇒ For more info visit: www.cdc.gov/rodents/cleaning/index.html

Rats

Evidence that Rats are on your property/yard:
⇒ Nests or Burrows—commonly found under bushes, plants, and in dirt. Are 1-4 inches wide with smooth edges.
⇒ Moist, dark (and larger in size) droppings.
⇒ Holes & Gnaw Marks on Wood, Plastic Bags & Garbage Cans.
⇒ Worn Down Runway Paths along walls & grass—Rats run along the same path many times.

Sources of Food Include:
⇒ Bird Feeders, Bird Seed, Grass Seed
⇒ Domestic Pet(s) Food & Water Bowls
⇒ Domestic Pet(s) Feces
⇒ Uncovered Garbage & Recyclable Bins
⇒ Ponding of water on yards
⇒ BBQ Grills, Compost pile

Controlling Rats:
⇒ Get Rid of Clutter! Clutter gives rats places to hide, nest & reproduce!
⇒ Clear out your yard & keep it free of weeds & trash.
⇒ Store items away from walls & off the ground (i.e. firewood piles)
⇒ Control Weeds, Shrubs & Bushes! Keep tall grass, bushes & shrubs trimmed and away from building foundations.
⇒ Avoid dense planting.
⇒ Store food in tightly sealed containers—hard plastic & metal containers are ideal.

How to Keep them Out:
⇒ Seal all holes and cracks in foundations, walls, floors, underneath doors, and around windows. Rats can fit through openings as small as a half inch!
⇒ For small cracks, gaps & holes use: caulk mixed with steel wool, roofing cement, metal door sweeps, metal flashing, & metal screens.
⇒ For larger areas use: heavy gauge sheet metal, wire mesh sealed with ready-mix cement.
⇒ Seal pipes leading into buildings with escutcheon plates—check pipes for leaks.
⇒ Close burrows with soil or with metal or use cement filler for burrows in cement.

Mice

Evidence that Mice are inside your home:
⇒ Nests made from fine, shredded paper or other material resembling a woven ball ~4-6 inches wide.
⇒ Smaller droppings.
⇒ Gnaw marks.

Sources of Food Include:
⇒ Seeds, grains, fruits, vegetables, pet food
⇒ Human Food: foods high in fat, proteins & sugars (bacon, chocolate, butter, nuts, cereals)
⇒ Wild: roots, plants, leaves & stems, insects & insect larvae.

Prevention & Control:
⇒ Mice can fit through openings as small as a quarter inch!
⇒ Seal all gaps & cracks through out your home using similar methods as above in areas like: Windows, Garage(s), Garage Doors, Foundation, Chimney, Exterior doors, Attic, Basement, Water Pipes, Vents.

Sources:
1. United States, NY City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene. “Preventing Rats on Your Property.” Preventing Rats on Your Property, pp. 1–16.