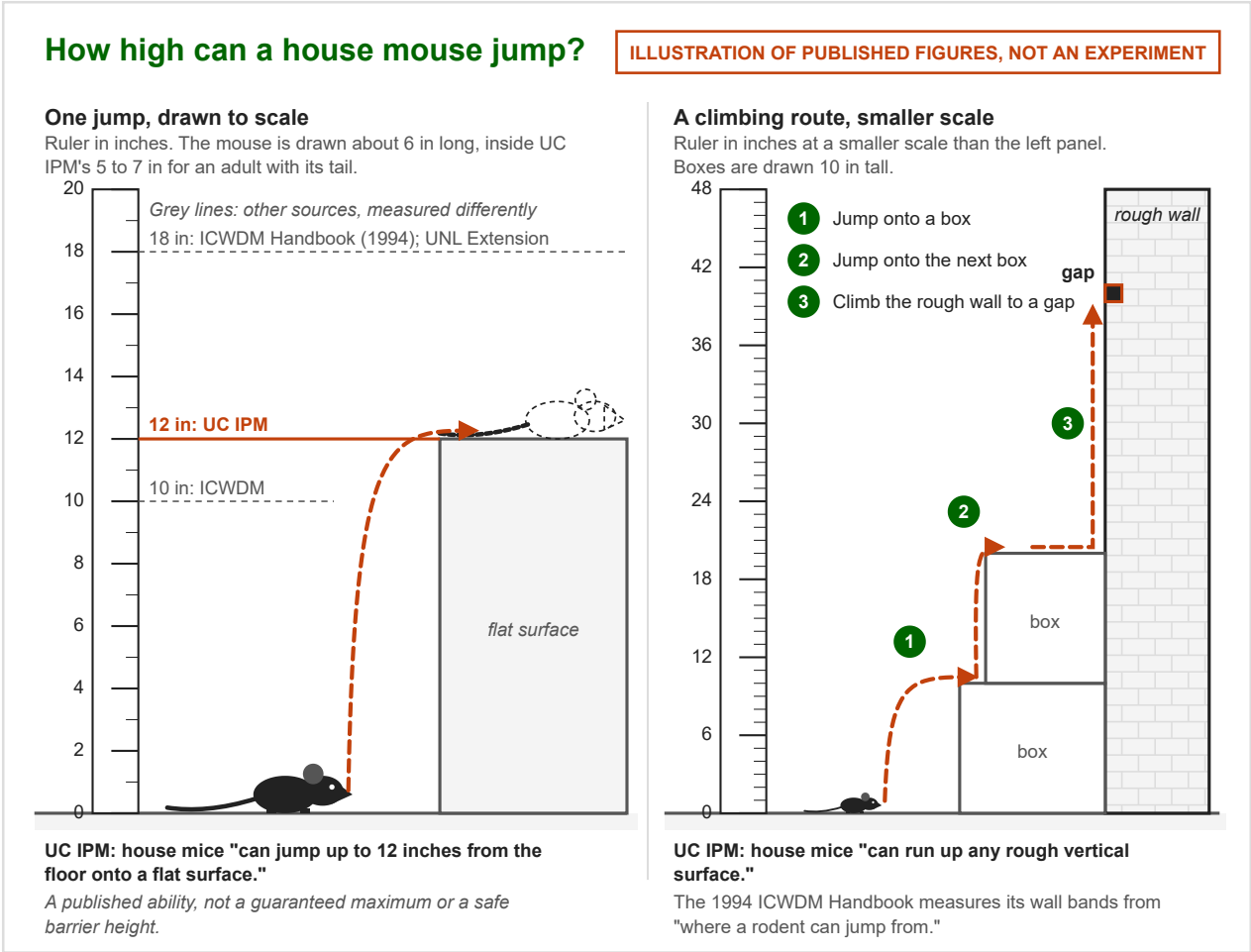


How High Can Mice Jump? A Visual Size Guide

One-page reference sheet

UC IPM says house mice "can jump up to 12 inches from the floor onto a flat surface." Read that as a published ability. It is not a guaranteed maximum, and it is not a safe height for a barrier. Other sources say 10 or 18 inches, and the table below shows each one.



Published Jump Heights, Side by Side: each source's own words

Height	The source's words	Measured	Source
12 inches	"can jump up to 12 inches from the floor onto a flat surface"	From the floor onto a flat surface	UC IPM
10 inches	"House mice can jump up to 10 inches from a flat surface."	From a flat surface; no landing is named	ICWDM
18 inches	"jump as high as 18 inches (46 cm) from a floor onto an elevated surface"	From a floor onto an elevated surface	ICWDM Handbook
18 inches	"jump up 18 inches vertically"	Straight up; no surface is named	UNL Extension

All four figures are for house mice, not rats. This sheet does not average them or pick one.

What This Means for Sealing Gaps and Storage

- UC IPM says mice can get in through openings as small as 1/4 inch.
- Seal small cracks and openings with wire screen or coarse steel wool.
- Keep all food storage and garbage containers sealed. House mice can chew on containers meant to protect food from rodents. Check your containers for chew marks now and then. Store bulk and pet foods in metal containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Mice can live inside a pallet of feed for long periods without going to the floor. A high shelf is not the same as a sealed container.
- Keep boxes, bins and firewood away from walls, vents and shelves, so they do not act as steps.

Sources, retrieved Sept. 26, 2026

1. UC IPM: Pest Notes: House Mouse (Publication 2945, updated 07/2025). ipm.ucanr.edu/home-and-landscape/house-mouse/
2. ICWDM: House Mouse Damage Prevention and Control Methods. icwdm.org/species/rodents/house-mice/house-mouse-damage-prevention-and-control-methods/
3. ICWDM Handbook: Rodent-Proof Construction and Exclusion Methods (Baker, Bodman and Timm, 1994), in Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage. icwdm.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/1994RodentProofConstructionBaker.pdf
4. UNL Extension: Rodent-Proof Construction: Structural (NebGuide G1530, revised January 2009). extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/html/g1530/build/g1530.htm

An illustration of published figures, not an experiment. No height here is a safe barrier.

RodentExterminator.com/learn/how-high-can-mice-jump

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