

RAT FACTS

- ***Rats eat everything!***
- ***Rats climb, jump and swim!*** If a squirrel can climb it, a rat can climb it.
- ***Rats chew!*** Plastic, wood, soft materials, electrical wires, and even cinder block and brick.
- ***Rats can squeeze into tiny spaces! (1/2 inch across)***
They nest where it is dark and warm. They can produce a litter of pups (babies) every 3 to 4 weeks.



Rodent Prevention and Control
IMPORTANT—
Your Assistance is Required



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A NEIGHBORHOOD
RAT CONTROL
PROGRAM CAN
ONLY BE EFFECTIVE
WITH THE
COOPERATION OF
**ALL PROPERTY
OWNERS!!**





- Norway rats, also called the brown or sewer rat, is a destructive pest found in urban and suburban neighborhoods. These rodents eat and contaminate food, damage buildings and other property by their gnawing and burrowing, and may spread diseases that affect
- Rats will eat nearly any type of food. They have keen taste, hearing and sense of smell. They will climb to find food or shelter, they can gain access to a building through any opening larger than 1/2 inch.
- Rats have litters of 6 to 12 young, which are born 21 to 23 days after mating. Young rats reach maturity in about three months. Breeding is most active in spring and fall. The average female has four to six litters per year.
- Poor sanitation and the presence of garbage helps rats to survive in residential areas. Good sanitation will effectively limit the number of rats that can survive in and around a home.

Do I have a Rat Problem?

- Rat Droppings: 1/2" long, black with pointed ends, found scattered
- Burrow: Rat burrows (holes) are 1 to 2" in diameter, check near junk piles, bushes, sheds, foundations, composts, etc.
- Runways: Rats constantly explore and learn, memorizing the locations of pathways, obstacles, food and water, shelter and features of their environment. They quickly detect and avoid new objects and novel foods. Thus, they often avoid traps and baits for several days following their initial placement.
- Gnaw Marks: Check around pipes, doorways, crawlspace vents, etc.

How Do I Get Rid of Rodents?

Step 1: Take Away Their Food. Rodents will eat anything. You must get rid of their food to get rid of them. Common Food Sources Include;

- Bird Food/Bird Feeders (do not use)
- Pet Food (do not leave food outside)
- Garbage (containers must have closed lid)
- Pet waste (dog feces must be picked up daily)
- Unprotected compost
- Fallen fruit from trees or unharvested garden produce
- Do Not Feed geese, ducks, pigeons, etc any type of bread, cereal, crackers, etc.

Step 2: Eliminate Them:

- **Trapping;** Trapping is an effective method of control both indoors and outdoors. The snap trap is simple and inexpensive and can be purchased at most hardware and grocery stores. Bait traps with peanut butter, chocolate candy, dried fruit or a small piece of hot dog. Rodents tend to run along walls, set traps close to walls, along a fence line or foundation so rats will pass directly over the trigger. NOTE: trapping is useless if you don't use procedures to prevent reinfestation.... AND use enough traps to eliminate the rodents quickly (using too few traps is a common error). Keep out of reach of children!
- **Poisoning;** Rodenticides are poisons that kill rodents. They can be purchased in hardware stores, feed stores, garden centers. Poisoning is NOT recommended indoors, or if you have small children or pets.

Step 3: Disposal of Dead Rodents

Always wear intact rubber or plastic gloves. Soak or spray dead rodents with a disinfecting solution (or 3 tablespoons of bleach per gallon of water) until thoroughly wet and then place in a plastic bag. This bag should be placed in a second bag and tied securely. Dispose in trash container with lid. Wash your gloved hands, then remove gloves and wash your hands again.