

RAT INFORMATION AND CONTROL

Controlling the Rat

Per the New York State Health Department, if rats are living in your neighborhood, there are steps you should take, even if they aren't in your home. Rats move freely in and out of buildings in the neighborhood, so any steps that your neighbors take to control rats will encourage them to move into a nearby building (maybe yours!)

Rats can thrive on just an ounce of food and water daily, so when they enter a neighborhood and gain access to meat, fish, vegetables and grains, they will stay.

Rats prefer to feed in and around homes, restaurants and businesses. But they will settle for scraps from trash bags and cans, private yards and what they find at the community disposal and transfer station.

Rats get shelter from tall weeds and grass, fences and walls, rubbish piles and abandoned appliances.

Checking for Rats

Listen after dark, turn on the lights in a dark room or basement and listen for any scurrying sounds. Listen for gnawing sounds when it is quiet.

Move stored materials and furniture to uncover any hiding places. Look at packaged goods, doors, windows, baseboards, and electrical cords for chewed spots, tooth marks, woodchips or shavings.

Check for freshly dug earth near holes around foundations, walls and embankments. Look under sidewalks, floors and platforms.

Check for rub marks, dark smears along hallways, or near pipes, beams, edges of stairs or around gnawed holes.

Check near walls, food supplies and pathways for droppings. Fresh droppings are dark and soft; old droppings are hard, or gray and brittle. Fresh droppings are sure sign of a current infestation.

How do Rats Get Inside?

Rats get in through:

cracks or holes;
by digging under foundations;
through open windows, doors, grates or vents;
by squeezing in the openings around pipes or wires; through floor drains, fan openings,
gaps under doors; and from inside large packages of food or merchandise.

Getting Rid of Rats

The best two ways to remove rats are traps or poison. Both require caution!
Choose wooden base snap traps, and enlarge the traps by fastening a 2-inch square of cardboard to each trigger. Set out several traps at a time, at least 10 if you think there are many rats. Place the traps behind boxes and against walls, so that the rats must pass over the trigger. Fasten peanut butter, raisin bread, bacon or gumdrops tightly on the trigger. Don't let the traps run out of bait, and be sure to check them regularly.

Warfarin, Chlorofaconone and Pival are all rat poisons. They work by making the rats' blood unable to clot, so the rats die of internal bleeding. Rat poison must be fed daily for six to ten days. Read the label before you begin, and be careful to follow all the directions. Watch out for children and pets! Read the label to follow how to dispose of unused poison safely.

**** IMPORTANT NOTICE TO FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS ****

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE YOU ALLOWED TO ATTEMPT TO RID YOUR ESTABLISHMENT OF BUGS, PESTS, OR RODENTS BY YOUR OWN MEANS. PER THE PUBLIC HEALTH CODE, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO HIRE A PROFESSIONAL LICENSED PEST CONTROL COMPANY FOR THIS TASK. IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE OR CLARIFICATION ON THIS RULE, PLEASE CONTACT US VIA THE INFORMATION BELOW.

Contact Us

To receive more information, call or visit us at:

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