

Rat Facts

- 1) Rats consume or contaminate about 20 percent of the world's total food supply.
- 2) Rats destroy property and carry many diseases, including salmonellosis, bubonic plague, and trichinosis.
- 3) A single female rat can produce up to 56 offspring in her lifetime, bearing eight to nine young every 30 days depending on environment and availability of food.
- 4) Rat's teeth can grow about five inches a year. To control the growth of teeth, rats must gnaw on items such as wood, metals, plastic.
- 5) Rats can feed on pet waste (fecal material) and uneaten food that is set out for birds and pets.
- 6) Rats can enter a hole as small as a quarter and mice can enter a hole as small as a dime.

Please call 311
to report
multiple rodents
in public space.



For more info
call 311
or visit
www.doh.dc.gov

LET'S
WORK
TOGETHER
FOR A
RAT-FREE
D.C.



WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP RATS AWAY

What do rats need to survive?

- Rats need food, water and shelter to survive and raise their young.

Let's work together to eliminate food sources for rodents.

- Put food waste inside a plastic bag and refrigerate inside until the morning of scheduled trash pick-up.
- Store plastic trash bags and food waste in cans with tight-fitting lids.
- If you have pets, remove their uneaten food quickly.
- Keep bird feeders off the ground.
- Scoop pet waste daily and place it in a trash can.
- Refrain from putting food waste in street litter bins without proper containment.
- Place cooking grease in a closed container before placing in the trash.

Let's work together to eliminate water sources for rodents.

- Make sure hoses and faucets work well and do not leak.
- Sweep away standing water from under air conditioners.

Let's work together to eliminate shelter for rodents.

- Clean areas around waste containers.
- Cut grass and weeds regularly.
- Remove old materials instead of storing them.

How can businesses help?

- Check trash containers to ensure the tops and bottoms are secure and free from holes.
- Store cooking grease in proper containers with tightly fitting lids. Make sure the containers are clean and free from grease on the outside.

Stop rats from entering your home or business.

- Seal all holes in exterior walls, floors and foundations.
- Seal basement windows with wire mesh.
- Eliminate all clutter outside the building.

How else can rodent activity be reduced?

- If using poison, follow instructions and keep it out of reach of pets and children.
- If using an exterminator, check to make sure the company is licensed in the District.
- If using a snap trap, place it out of reach of children, pets or other animals.

What does rodent control do, and how are the District's laws enforced?

- The Department of Health's Rodent Control and Enforcement staff conducts inspections, baiting and abatement, and educates the public. Code enforcement officers investigate complaints. The staff also collect evidence, writes Notices of Infraction and assess fines.



IT'S UP TO ALL OF US TO KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOODS RAT-FREE.