

Don't Attract the Rodents!

Learn what you can do to make your home unattractive to rats.

Like all animals, in order to thrive rats need three things:

FOOD, WATER, & SHELTER

The best way to prevent rats from making a home in your neighborhood is to make your house unattractive to rats by taking away sources of food, water, and shelter.



For professional advice and/or possible treatment options, contact a **licensed pest control company**.

Share this information with your neighbors. Rodent problems are a community issue. **Working together will help reduce this problem.**



FOOD

WHAT DO RATS EAT?

- Rats are omnivorous and will eat a combination of fruits, vegetables, grains, and meat.
- They prefer a balanced diet of cereal grains, meat, fish, nuts, and fruit.

FOOD SOURCES

- Food items in household garbage offer all of their favorite foods and also satisfy their water needs.
- Other sources around your home include:
 - Animal food (from pets, birds, livestock, etc.)
 - Birdseed on the ground
 - Vegetable gardens
 - Fruit and nut trees
 - Ornamental shrubs and vines with fruits and berries low to the ground.



WATER

HOW MUCH WATER DO RATS NEED?

- Rats only require 1/2-1 ounce of water daily when eating dry foods and less when moist foods are available (like fruit).
- Rats can swim and are able to tread water for up to three days.

WATER SOURCES

- Standing water:
 - Bird baths
 - Buckets
 - Discarded tires
 - Pet water bowls
 - Window pits near basements
 - Clogged rain gutters
- Leaks from:
 - Roof
 - Pipes/gutters
 - Outdoor faucets
 - Garden hoses



SHELTER

WHERE DO RATS LIVE?

- Rats often live in underground burrows. The burrows can be found alongside homes, fences, sheds, woodpiles, and tree roots. Burrows are generally 2-4 inches wide.
- Rats can hide out in basements, crawl spaces, attics, and sewers.

SHELTER SOURCES

- Lumber or clutter on the ground
- Bushes, overgrown shrubbery, weeds and grass over 12 inches high
- Rubbish including tires, engines, cans, drums, tree limbs, doors, etc.
- Broken sewer pipes
- Abandoned vehicles and appliances
- Dilapidated buildings, board fences, walls, or concrete slabs

