

History

Rats are and have been a part of the Massachusetts ecosystem since the area was originally settled in the early 17th century. They are a “cosmopolitan” species and are commonly found in most urban areas, including Newton and other neighboring communities, due to readily available food sources.

Community

Discouraging rats from living in our city will be most successful as a community effort. Please consider following the recommendations in the attached brochure.

If you think you have rats on your property, please contact a licensed pest control company to assist you.

City of Newton, MA



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Newton Health & Human Services
Department

1000 Commonwealth Ave

Newton, MA 02459

Phone: 617-796-1420



Rats in Newton

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

What should I look for on my property?

Rat Burrows: These are holes in the ground 4-6 inches in diameter where rats may be living. Look for burrows under fences, buildings, homes and cement slabs surrounding structures. You can test whether the burrow is active by filling in the hole with dirt and checking to see if it is cleared quickly.

Rat tracks: In the winter, you may be able to spot rodent tracks leading to or from a burrow.

Droppings Rats can leave 40 -50 droppings per day and are larger than mouse droppings (approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter)

Smudge marks (body oils) on walls

Sound of movement in walls and attics

Family pets staring intently at a blank wall



What can I do to prevent them from coming to my property?

Pick up pet feces: Rats eat dog and cat feces so be sure to pick up after your animals.

Birdseed: Keep birdseed under control and in the feeder as much as possible. Rats are drawn to birdseed on the ground.

Tree Fruit: Pick up fallen tree fruit.

Trash: Rats will climb into open cans and root through trash on the ground. Tie up trash bags and store them in covered containers until they can be disposed of properly.

Grills: Keep grills and grilling areas clean and clear of food waste.

Compost piles: Compost piles that are not properly contained provide food to rats. Make sure your compost is maintained and covered.

Yard waste and building material: Make sure your yard is maintained and that yard waste is properly disposed of in yard bags. Stack building materials, lumber and firewood at least 12-inches above the ground.

Cover openings: Don't give rats a place to live. Cover openings that are greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter with concrete, sheet metal or wire mesh.

