



## HISTORY



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

Rats are a known public health issue and tend to move freely around neighborhoods. Therefore, preventing rats will not be successful unless everyone works together.



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

**To report a rodent sighting, please visit:**  
**[www.newtonma.gov/rodentreport](http://www.newtonma.gov/rodentreport)**

This helps us track pest control issues and trends.

Newton Health & Human Services Department  
1000 Commonwealth Ave  
Newton, MA 02459

617-796-1420

[www.newtonma.gov/health](http://www.newtonma.gov/health)

City of Newton, MA



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

# Oh, Rats!

Let's work together to prevent rodents.



Discouraging rats from living in our city will be most successful as a community effort.

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR

**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. ¾ inch in diameter)

**SMUDGE MARKS** (body oils) on walls

**SOUND** of movement in walls and attics

**FAMILY PETS** staring intently at a blank wall

## TIPS ON PREVENTION

### MAINTAIN YOUR PROPERTY

- Keep grills clean
- Store woodpiles neatly with a 12-inch ground clearance
- Remove dog and cat feces promptly
- Thin vegetation and keep grass and shrubbery cut short.
- Pick up fallen tree fruit.



### ELIMINATE FOOD SUPPLY

- Do not leave pet food out at night
- Remove birdfeeders that rodents can access
- Remove water sources
- Make sure your compost is maintained and covered.



### RODENT-PROOF STRUCTURES

- Don't give rats a place to live. Cover openings that are greater than ½ inch in diameter with concrete, sheet metal or wire mesh.
- Keep trash containers and/or dumpsters closed at all times, tightly sealed and emptied frequently



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