

Don't Attract the Rats!



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

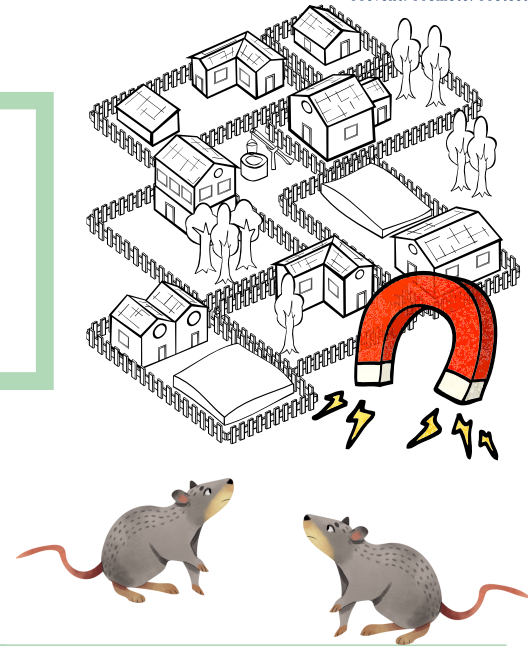
Learn what you can do to make your home unattractive to rats.

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



To report a rodent sighting, please visit:
www.newtonma.gov/rodentreport

For more information, please visit:
www.newtonma.gov/rats