

Clues to Rat Infestation

Rat droppings:

Rats leave 30 to 180 droppings per day. These will range from one half to three quarters of an inch in length and are cylindrical in shape.

Runways:

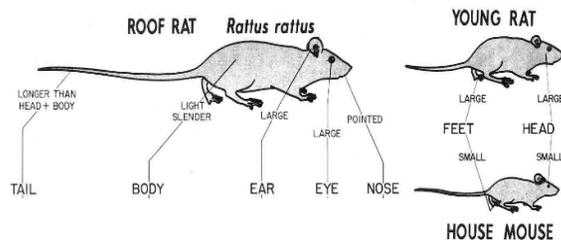
Rats tend to use the same path when they are exploring their territory; therefore, they will leave a well-worn path along beams, walls, or vegetation. Check along walls, fences, pipes and beams for rub marks and worn paths.

Burrows:

Rats will burrow beneath objects. Check for well-rounded holes 5 to 8 cm (2 to 3 inches) in diameter with worn paths.

Gnaw Marks:

This is a sure sign of rats. The front teeth of rats are continually growing, so rats constantly gnaw to reduce the size of their teeth. Consequently, they can cause damage to structures or wiring.



Rat Facts

- Rats are very agile and can scale brick or other rough walls.
- Rats can jump up to 1 metre vertically and 1.3 metres horizontally. They are strong and capable swimmers, even against strong currents.
- Rats are intelligent and quick learners. They can adapt to exploit many different situations.
- A single rat can leave up to 25,000 fecal pellets per year and a pair of rats can shed over a million body hairs per year.
- It is a common misconception that rats will pass the rabies virus. Even though rats can carry this virus, rats in BC have not been shown to have rabies.
- Norway rats and Roof rats are not native to North America.
- Rats do not commonly live in the wild; they are associated wherever there are human settlements.

For more information contact: Public Works
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RDOS

Public Works Department

Rat Prevention

Black/Roof Rats



Rodent Proof Your Home and Yard

Remove access to food, water & shelter

Composters: Keep yard waste composters working efficiently, keep moist and regularly churned, use leaves, avoid grass clippings. Place 1/2" metal wire mesh under all compost and storage bins to block rodents.

Vines and Climbers: Rats and rodents can use untrimmed, overgrown vines as runways.

Fruit and Nuts: Keep fruit and nut trees tidy and remove all dropped or rotten fruit.

Birdfeeders: A major animal attractant. Dropped and spilled seed is inevitable. Tidy areas around feeders and consider a tray under the feeder to catch dropped seed.

Pet Food: Do not leave pet food accessible or outside overnight. Remove any uneaten or dropped feed.

Structures: Check all vents and screens along foundations and replace or repair any damage. Cover openings with 1/2" wire mesh. Check weather stripping and soffits for chew marks. Regularly check shelves and corners of sheds and outbuildings for rat droppings or signs of rodents.

Remove 'safe' places for rats & rodents:

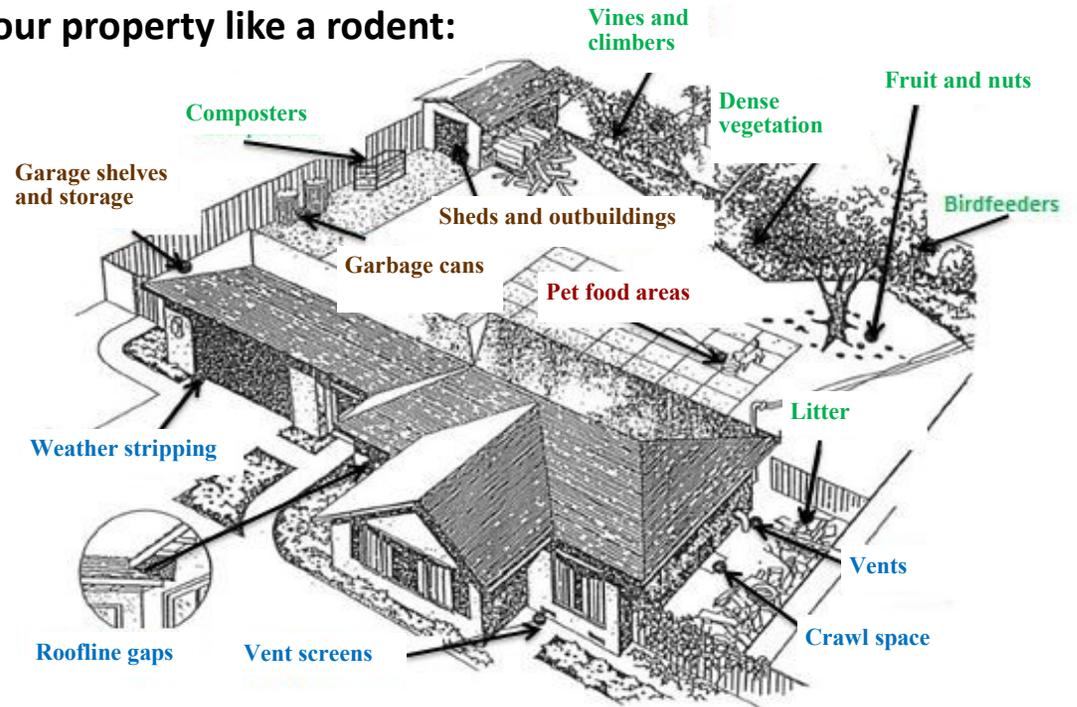
Remove tall weeds, piles of unused lumber, litter and loose firewood.

Links to information on Rats and Rodents:

www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfiles/hfile37.stm

www.orkinCanada.ca/pests/rodents/roof-rat/

See your property like a rodent:



Consulting a professional is often the safest and most cost effective measure

Snap Traps

The best method for eliminating rats. Available at hardware stores. Excellent video help: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6surVql9hHk&feature=youtu.be>

Using Rodenticides—the last resort

Consult a professional to establish the best rodenticide for your situation. Be cautious as children, pets and birds are highly susceptible to poisons. Poisoned rats may access walls and roof areas, die and decompose inside the structure.

Disposal

- Do not touch rats with your bare hands, use gloves and wash thoroughly after handling traps.
- Onsite disposal—bury more than 1 foot deep—and away from food gardens.
- Off site—double bag, mark and place in regular garbage. Over 5 rats, take to closest landfill in well labelled bags.

Helpful Link: