

WORK WITH US!

The Department of Health's Rodent Control and Enforcement staff is responsible for protecting the public health and safety of residents and visitors in the District of Columbia through rodent control and the investigation of poor sanitation conditions. Rodent Control and Code Enforcement staff conducts inspections, rodent baiting, abatement and disseminates information to the public.

To reduce the rodent activity in the District, it is critical that residents, visitors and business owners work together to store food waste and trash properly in trash cans and dumpsters (no plastic or paper trash bags), clean up uneaten pet and bird food, store grease properly, cut weeds and grass to less than 8" and report problems.

KNOW YOUR ENEMY!

Rat Facts

- 1) Rats consume or contaminate about 20% of the world's total food supply.
- 2) Rats destroy property and carry many diseases, including Salmonellosis, bubonic plague, and Trichinosis.
- 3) A single female rat can produce up to 56 offspring in her lifetime, bearing 8 to 9 young every 30 days depending on environment and availability of food.
- 4) Rat teeth can grow about 5 inches a year. To control the growth of teeth, rats must gnaw on items such as wood, metals, and plastic and can cause enormous damage.
- 5) Rats can feed on pet waste (fecal material) and uneaten food that is set out for birds and pets.
- 6) Rats can enter a hole as small as a quarter and mice can enter a hole as small as a dime.

The Department of Health Rodent Control and Enforcement staff cannot be successful in reducing rodent activity without the community's assistance.

We can make a difference if we all work together for a RAT-FREE DC.

Please call 202-727-1000 to report rodent complaints.

Please call 202-535-1954 for additional questions, outreach and education materials and enforcement.

District of Columbia • Department of Health



**WE ALL NEED
TO WORK
TOGETHER
FOR A
RAT FREE DC**

working for a rat free dc



frequently asked questions

What do rats need to survive?

- 1) Food
- 2) Water
- 3) A place to live

Where do rats get food and how to correct?

- 1) Open trashcans and dumpsters – Store trash and food waste in containers with tight fitting lids.
- 2) Plastic trash bags - Place all plastic bags in containers with tight fitting lids.
- 3) Pet food and wild animal and bird food - Remove all uneaten food quickly. Feed wild birds in bird feeders off the ground.
- 4) Pet feces – Scoop pet waste daily and place in trashcan.

Where do rats live and how to correct?

- 1) Around trashcans and dumpsters – Clean area of food waste and trash.
- 2) High grass and weeds – cut grass and weeds regularly to a height less than 8” inches.
- 3) Piles of trash, rubbish or old building material – Remove debris and buildup materials rather than store them.

How do you stop rats from entering your home?

- 1) Seal all holes in exterior walls, floors and foundations – Use sheet metal, cement or wire mesh for repairs.
- 2) Seal basement windows with wire mesh.
- 3) Eliminate all clutter around the outside homes and under porches.

How do you reduce rats?

- 1) Eliminate Food, Water and Habitat
- 2) Poison
 - Follow the label when using over the counter poison.
 - If using a professional exterminator, check license to be sure that they are certified by the District of Columbia.
- 3) Snap Traps
 - Always place traps out of the reach of children, pets or other animals.
 - When a rat is trapped, use a shovel or other tool to place the rat into a plastic bag. Tie or wrap the bag and place it in the trashcan.

How are Rodent Control Laws enforced?

DOH Code Enforcement Officers investigate complaints or conduct proactive investigations. If complaints have merit, staff collect evidence, write Notices of Infraction and prepare documents for hearings and assessment of fines.

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To report a rat bite or sick or injured rat, Contact Animal Control Division at 202-576-6664 for more information.

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