

**Working together we can successfully control the rat problem.**

Rats need three things to thrive in your neighborhood: Food, water, and harborage. Pet food, garbage, vegetable gardens, and fruit trees all provide a source of food for rats. Remove accumulated junk to destroy the shelter needed by rats to survive. Rat proofing all buildings and homes in a neighborhood will help prevent or reduce infestation. Report dilapidated buildings and vacant houses that are open to intrusion.



**Rat control is everyone's responsibility.**

Rats are a community problem and the entire neighborhood should work together to solve it. Without continuing sanitation and good housekeeping practices, the results of a rat extermination program will only be temporary.



**CONTACT:**

To report complaints, contact:

**Monroe County Department of Health  
Rodent Control Program**

111 Westfall Road, Rochester, NY 14620

**585-753-5171**

Business Hours: 8:30am - 4:30pm M-F

**[www.monroecounty.gov/health](http://www.monroecounty.gov/health)**

# RATS



## FOOD & SHELTER

*are what they need from you!*



**RODENT CONTROL  
PROGRAM**

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

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COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH**



# RATS

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Rats like to live where people live and they can thrive on just an ounce of food and water a day. Rats eat what we eat. Our food waste is their favorite meal. They also eat unattended and improperly stored pet food, fecal matter from pets, bird seed, etc. That is why it is so important to store garbage properly. Tall weeds and grass, tires, garbage, wood piles and abandon cars, furniture and appliances can provide rats with the shelter they need to protect them from predators, including humans.



## INFESTATION

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### Rats (and mice) gain entry into homes and public buildings:

- Through breaks, cracks, and tiny openings, smaller than a dime, in foundations or siding.
- Through open or unscreened windows, doors, ventilators, sidewalk gratings, and basement vents.
- By burrowing under shallow foundations.
- By passing through openings around pipes or conduits entering the foundation or inside the house.

- Through floor drains, transoms, letter drops, and fan openings.
- Inside bulk packages of food or merchandise.



## PREVENTION

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### You can take the following measures to reduce the risk of a rat infestation:

- Bird feeding must be done in a way that prevents the scattering of feed onto the ground and keeps rats and other wildlife away from the bird feed.
- When there is a rat infestation in your neighborhood, you must discontinue bird feeding entirely.
- Keep yards trash free and clean areas behind wooden steps, under decks, or any other sites that provide shelter.
- Cover all garbage cans with tight fitting lids at all times.
- Do not allow yard waste to pile up on the ground.
- Avoid feeding pets outdoors. If you must, remove any uneaten pet food immediately and always store in rat-proof containers.
- Clean up pet droppings on and around your property daily.



- Seal any holes in your home's foundation.
- Fasten floor drains to keep rats from entering through sewers.
- Pile wood and other storage materials away from walls and at least 18" above the ground.
- Remove sources of water.
- Make sure windows and doors close tightly and place heavy screening on all basement windows.
- Composting must be done in a rodent-proof enclosure



## ELIMINATION

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### The two best ways to remove rats are traps or poison. The use of either requires precaution!

- Wooden-base snap traps can be enlarged by fastening a 2-inch square of cardboard to each trigger.
- Place traps along walls at a 90 degree angle, so that the rats must pass over the trigger of each trap. Place several traps at a time.
- Baiting rats must be done by a licensed professional.



IT IS **IMPORTANT** TO  
MAKE SURE CHILDREN  
AND PETS **DO NOT** HAVE  
ACCESS TO THE POISON!