

Rodent Facts

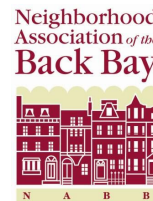
- Rodents spread disease.
- Rodents are more active at night.
- Their eyesight is not very good, but their other senses are intense.
- Rodents live up to one year.
- The female usually has about 7 litters per year with 6-12 “pups”.
- Rodents will jump at someone if they feel threatened.
- Rodents can jump up to 4 feet.
- Rodents can jump on top of trash cans, wires, chains, and pipes.
- Rodents need one ounce of food and 1/2 ounce of water a day.
- Rodents communicate with other rodents as to where there is a food source.
- Rodents live within 150 feet of their food/water source
- Rodents memorize their surroundings. If an object is moved, they know it and stay away for a couple of days. (Including bait stations)
- If they become familiar with an area, rodents may use a bait station for their home.
- Rodents can start a fire by gnawing on electric wires.
- Rodents can cause damage to cars while they are parked. They can chew on wires, sleep on the engine, etc.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, rodents spread over 35 diseases. “They can spread directly to humans through bite wounds, consuming food or water that is contaminated with rodent feces, coming in contact with surface water contaminated with rodent urine, or through breathing in germs that may be present in rodent urine or droppings that have been stirred into the air. Diseases from rodents are also spread indirectly to humans by way of ticks, mites, and fleas that transmit infection to humans after feeding on infected rodents.”

www.cdc.gov.

Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
City Services Committee
337 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02115

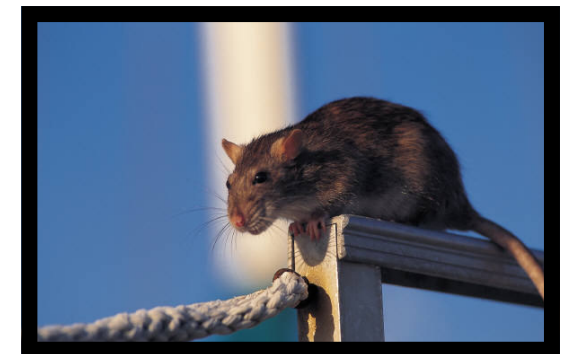
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Rodent Information Brochure

Facts About Rodent Control

This brochure will help you understand how smart rodents are, how to keep rodents away from your property, what to do if you have a rodent problem, and provide suggestions in solving rodent problems.



Rodent Prevention

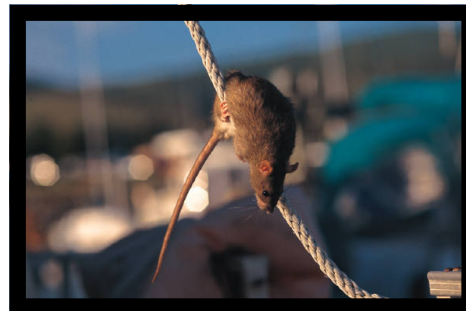
- Keep trash in a tight-fitting metal or plastic container at all times.
- If possible, keep all trash inside in rodent-proof containers until the morning of trash pickup day.
- Do not keep any standing water outside. (leaking hose, birdbath, etc.)
- Do not use bird feeders. They help feed the rodents.
- Do not keep pet food outside.
- Do not put bread out for the birds.
- Do not store firewood, lumber, etc. outside on the ground. It only provides a hiding place for the rodents.
- If you have to store firewood outside, keep it off the ground so the rodents cannot nest under the wood.
- Seal all cracks around the foundation of the building and above the foundation.
- Close all open pipes and drain spouts that are more than 1/4 inch.
- Keep all doors and windows tightly closed unless a screen is used.

Resources:

- Inspectional Services Boston
- www.cdc.gov
- www.alexandriava.gov
- dchealth.dc.gov

Landscaping & Seasons

- Spring and fall are breeding seasons for rodents.
- Remove dense ground cover and weeds particularly next to foundations; they provide a hiding place for rodents. Instead of ground cover use cedar mulch.
- In the spring and summer rodents use ground cover and shrubs for breeding. That is why it is important to keep the ground clear.
- Do not plant cabbage plants; rodents love them.
- Exposed soil/dirt can be used for rodent burrowing. Use heavyweight gravel or stones to prevent the burrowing.
- In the fall and winter, rodents will find warm places to live (buildings, mounds of firewood, and along fences).
- In the fall and winter, natural food sources are more difficult to find. It is important to keep trash cans covered tightly and kept in rodent-proof containers.



Conclusion

How do you know if you have a rodent problem?

- Do you see a rat burrow (a tunnel that is dug below the ground)? It is usually found along a fence or a wall of a building.
- Do you see live or dead rodents?
- Do you see droppings from rodents? (capsule shaped, about 3/4 inch long)
- Do you see little pieces of paper, white packing popcorn, etc. around your residence (for nesting)?
- Do you smell the odor of rodents' urine?
- Do you see gnawing marks from their teeth? (for example, at the bottom of a plastic trash can)
- If you think you have a problem, stuff an exposed opening with crumpled-up newspaper. If it has been removed the next day, you may have rodents.

If you see a rodent.....

- Check around your building for food sources—they do not live far from their food source.
- Check your surroundings (trash out early, a dumpster overflowing or left open, eaten plastic trash cans).
- Contact a pest control company.
- Contract NABB at 617-247-3961. They have volunteer block captains who will be able to assist you.