

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT FOR RAT ACTIVITY

**Columbus Public Health is conducting an area
assessment of rat activity.**

We are offering education about rodent control
and advice about ways to prevent rats on your
specific property.

**To schedule an appointment with
Columbus Public Health for these services,**
please call 311 (614-645-3111).

Comments: _____

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GETTING RID OF RATS

DON'T FEED THEM

No Outside Food

- Clean up pet poop every day.
- Don't leave dog/cat food or water outside.
- Clean up bird food laying on the ground.
- Pick up fallen tree fruit.
- If you compost, make sure your bin keeps rats out and bury food scraps deep in the pile.
- Do not compost meats, dairy or greasy foods.
- Make sure there is no garbage on the ground.

Keep Garbage Secure

- Use garbage containers with tight lids and keep them closed.
- Bag your trash.
- Report damaged city trash cans or dumpsters by calling 311.

DON'T GIVE THEM A PLACE TO LIVE

Cover Openings

- Cover openings ½ inch or larger with concrete, sheet metal or hardware cloth.
- Screen basement windows and other windows that are within three feet of the ground with hardware cloth.
- Cover basement drains with hardware cloth or a drain cover.
- Patch holes around wires and pipes with sheet metal or concrete patching.

Seal and Snug

- Doors should fit snugly, not more than 3/8 inch from the door frame.
- Basement windows should fit tightly and have no broken panes.
- Seal up enclosed spots such as between walls, crawl spaces, under porches, and around boxed-in plumbing.

Clean Up Your Yard

- Have junk, like old cars and appliances, hauled away.
Call 311 about collecting bulk items.
- Stack building materials, lumber and fire wood at least 18 inches off the ground.
- Remove leaves, branches and other yard waste.
- Keep grass and weeds cut low (under 12 inches).

If All Else Fails...

- Call a professional exterminator.
- Use traps made for rats, not mice.
- If you use rat poison, follow the label very carefully. Pets are an important part of the family, so use caution because pets are at high risk of being poisoned too.

REPORT COMPLAINTS OR ASK QUESTIONS

Call 311 (614-645-3111)

- If there are signs of rats (burrows, runways or droppings), the City will issue a notice of violation to the property owner.
- Landlords must keep the outside of buildings rodent proof. Both tenants and property owners must keep the area clean.

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