

WHERE CAN RATS LIVE?

Rats can live in a variety of places including...

- Piles of debris, yard waste, lumber and abandoned cars
- Old garages and under patios and decks
- Junk furniture
- Dark, enclosed spaces such as between walls
- Holes in a building's foundation

WHAT DO RATS EAT?

Rats eat quite a few surprising items such as...

- Garbage
- Food waste in compost piles
- Bird food on the ground
- Dog manure
- Any uneaten pet food left outside
- Fruit from trees

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions about rat control in Columbus, call the City Hotline at:

311

Visit your local library for "how to" materials...

www.cml.lib.oh.us

Work with your neighbors to help strengthen your efforts!

Visit our website...

www.publichealth.columbus.gov



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**RAT
CONTROL**



WHO'S WINNING THE RAT RACE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

Rats can cause diseases and property damage...

**READ MORE TO LEARN
HOW TO PREVENT
RAT PROBLEMS IN
YOUR AREA.**

RATPROOFING

- Repair openings with concrete, sheet metal, or hardware cloth. Patch holes around wires and pipes. Seal with sheet metal or concrete patching.
- Cover basement drains with hardware cloth or a drain cover if openings are greater than ½ inch in diameter.
- Keep doors cuffed and channeled (consult with professionals for advice). Doors should not be more than 3/8 inch from the frame.
- Secure basement windows so they fit tightly and have no broken panes. Use hardware cloth to screen basement windows and other windows that are within three feet of the ground.

Rats live in dark, enclosed spots where regular cleaning may be difficult. Seal dead spaces (between walls, in crawl spaces, under porches or patio floors, in boxed-in plumbing, etc.) to eliminate potential home sites for rats .

SECURE GARBAGE

- Make sure no garbage is outside the trash container on the ground
- Have strong cans with tight fitting lids
- Keep lids on tight at all times
- Make sure garbage is hauled away every week
- Put cans out for collection the night before or morning of your scheduled pickup
- In Columbus City limits, report damaged trash containers to:
645-3111

DID YOU KNOW...

Rats are able to fit under an opening this small? →

1/2"

Crevices ½ inch high or larger should be repaired.

KEEP YOUR YARD CLEANED UP

- Have junk cars hauled away
- Secure abandoned buildings
- Stack building materials, lumber and fire wood at least 18 inches off the ground
- Clean up dog manure daily
- Do not leave pet food out overnight

GETTING RID OF RATS

CALL 311

That's 614-645-3111 to make a service request within the City of Columbus.



TRAPS

Use traps made especially for rats, not mice.



POISON

Rat poison can be bought at groceries and hardware stores; but read the label first!

EXTERMINATE

Property owners need to arrange extermination with a professional.

Quick Tips for... RAT PROOFING



- Close doors
- Fix broken windows
- Cover holes in doors
- Patch cracks in foundations and walls
- Cover drains
- Screen air vents