

Protect Your Property: Rodent Prevention, Trapping & Baiting

Prevention

- Temporarily **STOP FEEDING SEED, CORN, BREAD, ETC.**, to birds, squirrels, ducks and other wildlife until the problem is abated.
- Feed dogs and cats inside – if food is provided outside, pick up uneaten food promptly. **DO NOT LEAVE PET FOOD OUTSIDE OVERNIGHT**, rats feed at night.
- Dog feces can be a rat food source - feces should be collected and disposed of promptly.
- Compost piles which are not turned regularly can be a food source for rats. Follow proper guidelines to keep the compost pile unattractive to rats.
- **Keep garages and sheds uncluttered.** Store items off the floor and keep walls and corners visible so signs of rodent activity, such as gnawed wood or droppings, are easy to spot.
- Ensure the house and garage foundation are in good repair – decayed areas & holes allow easy access for rodents.
- Sheds installed on wood, brick, pavers, stone, or dirt can allow rats to burrow underneath. **Inspect the base regularly for burrow holes.**
- Remove all wood and brush piles from the yard. Keep firewood stacked at least 18" off ground to prevent rats from burrowing under.
- Cut tall grass, weeds, & overgrowth from your property to reduce areas for rodents to hide.
- Keep garbage in plastic bags inside of tight trashcans.

Trapping & Baiting

Snap traps

- Snap traps are economical and provide the ability to control the disposal of the dead rodent.
- Peanut butter or bacon is good bait; can be tied with thread or thin wire to the trigger.
- Place snap traps perpendicular to the walls in areas that rodents are using.

Rodent Bait and Bait Station Use

- Take time to read the rodent bait label before opening for clear instructions and warnings.

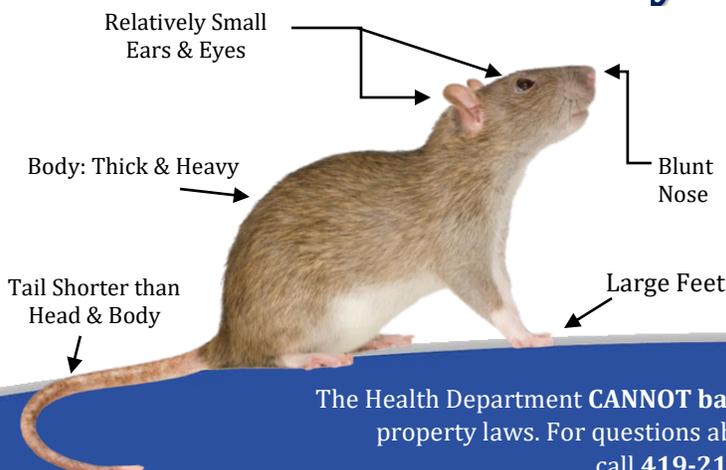


Use tamper-resistant bait stations when dispensing poisonous bait to keep it dry, covered, and secure while protecting children, pets, and non-target wildlife.

Cleanup and disposal

- Always wear rubber gloves when handling cleanup tasks.
- **Spray droppings and urine with a 1:10 bleach solution**, then use a paper towel to pick up and dispose of the waste.
- Wrap dead rats in newspaper or place them in a plastic bag before putting them in a tightly covered garbage can. Do not bury them.
- **Wash hands with hot water and soap** after handling traps, poison bait, rodent waste, or dead rodents.

Norway Rat



Size: 12-18 inches from nose to end of tail.

Droppings:
Long, rounded ends
Avg. Length: ¾ inch



The Health Department **CANNOT** bait private property due to liability and property laws. For questions about rodent activity or prevention, call 419-213-4100, ext. 4

