

Treatment Trap & Bait Solutions

- Rodents need water, food and shelter to survive. If you eliminate these sources you help eliminate the population.
- Bait traps and snap traps are the most common ways to exterminate rodents.
- Snap traps are best for indoors. The wooden ones are fairly inexpensive and bait such as peanut butter can be used.
- Bait boxes should be used outdoors. These are typically black boxes that have bait (poison) inside. **The poison is kept in a box to protect pets and children.**
- Be sure to wear gloves when handling used traps and sanitize where there has been rodent activity.
- If you rent the property you live in and you see rodents, contact your landlord.
- If you continue to see rodent activity, look into hiring a licensed, professional pest control operator.
- Contact your Veterinarian for ways you can protect your outdoor pets.

This is a community issue. Working together will help eliminate the problem. Please be sure to share this information with your neighbors.



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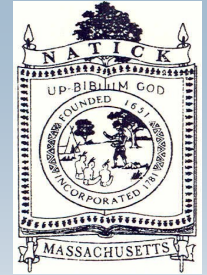
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Natick Health Department

13 East Central Street

Natick, MA 01760

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Natick Health
Department

Managing a Rodent Issue



Rat Facts

- Rats eat just about anything!
- Rats can jump, climb and swim.
- Rats have sharp teeth that can gnaw through materials such as wood, brick and soft metals.
- Rats can reproduce every 3 to 4 weeks.
- Rats can be found under woodpiles or junk piles, in basements or holes under buildings.



Mice Facts

- Mice have a keen sense of taste, hearing, smell and touch.
- Mice can fit through a crack about the size of a pencil.
- Mice can reproduce every 3 weeks and can give birth to 4 to 12 babies per litter.
- Mice eat 15 to 20 times per day and can jump and climb.

Keeping Rodents OUT of your home

- Seal any holes around the foundation of your home.
- Cover all chimneys with a spark arrester.
- Seal gaps beneath all doors including the garage with a gasket or weather stripping.
- Be sure that all windows and screens are sealed tightly and in good condition.
- Keep in mind pet doors make an easy entrance for rodents.
- Install self closing exits or screening to dryer vents to the outside.
- Seal all openings around pipes, cables and wires that enter through walls or the foundation.
- Seal any openings in the attic or crawl spaces.
- If you start to see gnawing on food items, store food in plastic containers to eliminate their food source.
- Seal and rodent proof any structures (sheds, garages, foundations) using durable material such as sheet metal or ¼ inch mesh. Rats can squeeze through anything greater than ½ inch.



Keeping Rodents OUT of your yard



- Remove piles of garbage or junk, including old appliances, automobiles, etc.
- Keep wood piles stacked 18 inches off the ground.
- Trim down any overgrown bushes, vines, shrubs or tall grasses.
- Keep lids tightly sealed on all trash, recycling or compost containers.
- Keep your grills clean and clear of grease and food debris.
- Remove or contain any food sources such as pet food, bird seed, fallen fruit from trees and anything similar.
- Remove any standing water from bird baths, pools, pet water bowls, etc.
- Keep compost secured and covered.
- Keep your grills clean and clear of grease and food debris