

Sanitation

Cluttered and overgrown areas give rats the means of moving around without detection.

- **Keep your home clean and free of clutter.**

Good sanitation will not only reduce food and shelter resources for existing rodents, but will also make baits and traps more effective.

- **Thereby limiting the number of rats that can survive in and around the home.**

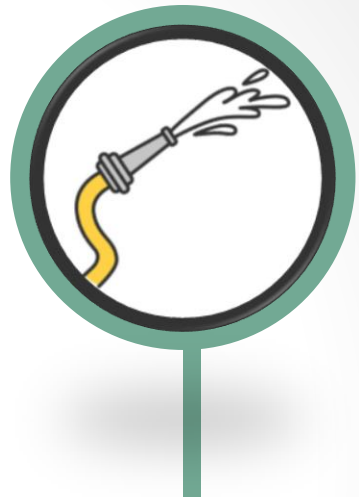


Control the overgrowth of: weeds, shrubs, brush, and vegetation.

- **Recommended:** vase-shaped shrubs vs. dense evergreens or ground cover.

Burrows can often be found under dense foliage, where rodents are protected from predators and natural elements.

- **Remove/trim plants if burrows are found in this area.**



These spaces must be properly maintained.

Many rat problems around the home can be related to the keeping of pets.

- Rats can be found living underneath doghouses.
- **When dogs are away or sleeping, rodents can even feed on the dog's food.**

Rats will also feed on undigested matter found in canine feces.



Maintaining Cleanliness



Eliminate the accumulation of materials that would otherwise give rodents a place to hide, sleep, nest, and reproduce; without being seen or disturbed.

- **Examples:** newspaper piles, stacks of cardboard, bags of bottles and cans, etc.

Storage Note: keep items away from walls and off the ground.

Plants



Washing

If you find droppings or track marks, wash the area with water and a mild bleach solution.

- **Solution:** 1 part bleach, 10 parts water

Rats communicate and attract one another through their urine and droppings.

Dog Pens & Houses



Rodent-Proofing Your Property



Pick-up pet waste daily.

Vegetable gardens: pick all ripe fruits and vegetables; clean up rotten, fallen foods.

Woodpiles should be stacked 12 in. off the ground and 12 in. away from walls.

Ensure that plants and grass do not grow up against buildings

- There should be 12-18 in. of open ground between plants and a building.
- **Remove leaf litter.**



Eliminate unnecessary standing water sources.

- Repair leaky faucets

Store bulk foods, bird seed, and dry pet food in metal cans with tight-fitting lids.

Food should never be left out for stray animals or wildlife.

Remove bird feeders that spill seeds onto the ground.

- Clean up around bird feeders.



For cement and stone foundations, use: mortar or ready-mix cement.

For covering large holes, use: metal lathe or screening

- Then seal with mortar or cement.

For covering floor drains and vents, use: heavy-duty metal screening

- Then secure with masonry nails or cement.

For sealing pipes leading into walls, use: escutcheon plates (i.e., pipe collars).

Yard Debris



Bring garbage cans outside to the curb closer to pick-up time, to prevent unintended feeding of rodents.

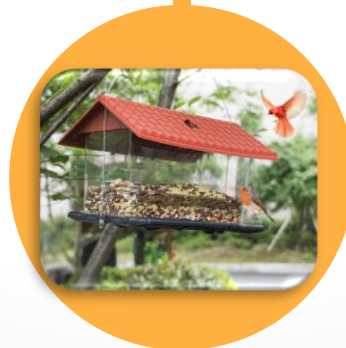
Ensure garbage lids are sealed (no holes/gnaw marks), with tight-fitting lids.

Use durable, Village-approved trash cans.

Clean garbage cans with soap and water weekly.

Rinse all containers before you recycle/discard them.

Outside Food & Water



Sealing Cracks & Holes

For small holes and cracks, use: caulk or roofing cement.

For gaps under doors, use: metal door sweeps or metal kick plates.

On the lower level of the home, install screens on vents.

Large Gaps & Holes

