

## Looking for Evidence of Rodents

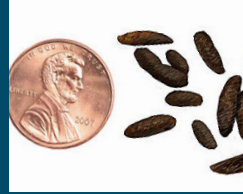
### Nests

Nests are usually located in dark, secluded areas.



### Droppings

Droppings are found in small groupings and typically measure ½" to ¾" long with blunt ends.



### Gnaw Marks & Holes

Rodents can chew through wood and plastic and can squeeze through holes that are ½" wide.



### Burrows

Burrows are holes with smooth edges and have a width of 2" to 4". Chipmunks, squirrels, and other animals also create burrows. Rodent burrows are usually larger in diameter and may have a greasy residue around the entrance. Look for two holes, an entrance and an exit.



### Runways & Rub Marks

Smudge marks are transferred from the oil and dirt on fur onto the walls they run along. Rats use the same paths frequently. Look for runway signs on walls and worn down paths in the grass or dirt.



### Live Rodents

Live and dead rodents are the most obvious sign that rodents are living in an area.



## Handling Dead Rodents

The Village does not remove dead rodents from private property. Wear rubber or plastic gloves when removing dead rodents and cleaning contaminated items. Soak dead rodents with a disinfecting solution (3 tablespoons of bleach per gallon of water or a commercial disinfectant containing phenol) until thoroughly wet and place in a plastic bag. Place the bag in a second bag and seal tightly. Dispose of rodents in trash containers with tightly fitting lids. After handling rodents and cleaning contaminated items, thoroughly wash gloved hands in a general household disinfectant or in soap and water. Then remove gloves and thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water.

## Rodent Prevention Checklist

The checklist below will help you identify and eliminate conditions on your property that will contribute to rodent activity.

### Food & Water

- Remove all outdoor food and water sources for rodents.
- Regularly clean outdoor grills and similar grease catchers.
- Do not feed pets outside. Do not leave food outside for stray animals or wildlife.
- If there are birdfeeders on the property, remove them or ensure they are of a design that prevents seed from falling to the ground. Clean up around bird feeders regularly.

### Yards

- Mow or trim any grass or weeds over 6" in height and remove leaf litter.
- Remove any dog or animal waste on the ground.
- If there is a fruit or vegetable garden on the property, remove any fruits or vegetables that have fallen to the ground.
- Maintain 12 to 18 inches of open ground between plants and a building.

### Garbage & Storage

- Bring refuse containers outside closer to pick-up time.
- Use clean and durable garbage cans with tight-fitting lids.
- Rinse all containers before recycling or discarding.
- Store any compost in a fully enclosed container.
- Remove any bulk items stored on the property.
- Remove any wood or other materials stored on the ground. Keep any wood piles at least 12 inches off the ground and 12 inches away from walls.

### Cracks & Holes

- Fill any holes larger than ½" leading into sheds, garages, basements, or the home.
- For small holes and cracks, use caulk or roofing cement. For large holes, use metal lathe or screening, then seal with masonry nails, mortar, or cement if applicable.
- For sealing pipes leading into walls, use pipe collars.
- For gaps under doors, use metal door sweeps or kick plates.
- Install screens on vents on the ground floor.



# Preventing Rodents on Your Property

## A Guide for Residents

To report rodents, contact the Village of Morton Grove Department of Building and Inspectional Services at 847-470-5214 or email [building@mortongroveil.org](mailto:building@mortongroveil.org)

For more information:  
[www.mortongroveil.org/rodent-control](http://www.mortongroveil.org/rodent-control)



Village of Morton Grove  
6101 Capulina Avenue  
Morton Grove, Illinois 60053  
847-470-4100 | [www.mortongroveil.org](http://www.mortongroveil.org)

## Introduction

The Village of Morton Grove works closely with residents and businesses to control rodents, which are a regional issue in the Chicagoland area. Managing the rodent population is a community effort. Controlling rodents requires removing the resources they need to survive, including food, water, and shelter. Everyone needs to work together to reduce rodent populations by eliminating food and water sources, keeping buildings in good repair, discarding clutter, and managing garbage.

## Village Rodent Control Program

The Village's Rodent Control Program includes inspection, treatment of burrows, and ensuring preventative measures are in place.

Treatment for rodent control involves baiting with rodenticide in a secure manner for residential properties. This allows for investigation and tracking of service requests and provides measures for property maintenance. Commercial and multi-unit property owners must hire a pest control company to bait for rodents.

**To report rodent sightings, contact the Village of Morton Grove Department of Building and Inspectional Services at 847-470-5214 or email [building@mortongroveil.org](mailto:building@mortongroveil.org).** Provide your name, the address where rodents or evidence of rodents were observed, a phone number where you can be reached, and a description of your concern. An inspector will come to evaluate the property, identify evidence of rodents, discuss preventative measures that should be taken to eliminate rodents, and treat the area as needed.

Remember that baiting alone is not an effective rodent elimination method. It takes coordinated and sustained efforts to control rodents. **Residents must agree to do their part by eliminating rodent attractants, which will hinder the Village's ability to properly treat an area.** Code enforcement will be referred to for action if a property owner does not cooperate in eliminating rodent attractants.

## What to Know About Rodents

Rodents are attracted to food, water, and shelter. Rodents are more active during the summer and fall months because they are gathering food to store for the winter. They will consume and gather almost any food that they have access to and only need one ounce of food and one half ounce of water each day to survive. Rodents are especially attracted to compost piles, pet waste, and rotting wood piles. Rodents can cause extensive damage to homes and structures as they can chew through almost any type of material.

## Rodent Prevention



### Eliminate Food Sources

**Eliminate all food and water sources for rodents on the property.** Food is the number one factor for both attracting and sustaining rodents. Reducing and eliminating the amount of the food available to rodents starves them and reduces their litter size. Over time, this leads to significant reductions in the regional population. Such reductions make managing rodent populations with bait boxes and other means more effective. The following are the most common rodent food and water sources identified on properties in Morton Grove:

- ⦿ **Bird feeders and suet cages without seed catchers**
- ⦿ **Ground feeding with kitchen scraps**
- ⦿ **Feeding squirrels and other wildlife with bulk corn, grains, and peanuts-in-the-shell**
- ⦿ **Refuse containers with holes and missing lids**
- ⦿ **Refuse containers with food waste stored beneath trees or within 5 feet of fences, buildings, and accessory structures**
- ⦿ **Outdoor grills and similar grease catchers**
- ⦿ **Unprotected gardens (including raspberry patches), fruit trees (pear, apple, quince, plum, mulberry), grape vines, arbor networks, and ornamental shrubs that bear sweeter fruits**
- ⦿ **Gardenscapes that include a water feature and sump pump networks that result in puddled water**

**Feeding Wildlife.** Feeding wildlife can mean feeding and attracting rodents. Eliminating feeders is the best solution. If you do maintain a feeder, please take the following precautions:

- Never leave any food source on the ground or anywhere other than a rodent-proof bird feeder.**
- Attach a seed tray to the bottom of the bird feeder (or purchase a feeder with a tray) to prevent seeds from falling to the ground.**
- Use a squirrel baffle on metal bird feeder poles. Keep the top of the baffle at least 5 feet from the ground.**
- Use a covered bird feeder or weather guard. Do not use platform feeders (open trays that allow easy access).**
- Do not install bird feeders on wooden posts.**
- Do not overfill feeders.**
- Store seed indoors in metal or durable plastic bins.**

## Rodent Prevention



### Maintain Cleanliness

**Keep your property clean and free of clutter.** Cluttered and overgrown areas allow rodents to move around without detection. Good sanitation will not only reduce food and shelter resources for existing rodents, but also make baits and traps more effective, limiting the number of rodents that can survive on and around the property.



### Eliminate Clutter

**Eliminate any accumulation of materials** that might offer rodents a place to hide, sleep, nest, and reproduce without being seen or disturbed. Examples include scrap piles, newspaper piles, stacks of cardboard, and bags of bottles and cans. Keep stored items away from walls and off the ground.



### Control Plants

**Control the overgrowth of weeds, shrubs, brush, and vegetation.** Burrows can often be found under dense foliage, where rodents are protected from predators and natural elements.



### Wash Rodent Areas

**If you find rodent droppings or track marks, wash the area with water and a mild bleach solution** (1 part bleach to 10 parts water). Rodents communicate and attract one another through their urine and droppings.



### Maintain Pet Areas

**Pet pens and houses must be properly maintained.** Rodent problems are often related to the keeping of pets. For example, rodents can often be found living underneath doghouses. When a pet is away or sleeping, rodents can feed on the pet's food. Rodents will also feed on undigested matter found in canine feces.