

Rodent control tips

During the past few months there have been several newspaper articles relating to problems that some communities have had this year with rodents. The following steps should be followed if rodents or a sign of rodents are found. Note: This is for informational purposes only. Please consult the city ordinance for further details.

To control potential rodent problems, residents should:

Remove all food sources

- Proper garbage and rubbish storage are the most important factors in preventing and eliminating rats.
- Cans with tight fitting lids are essential.
- Plastic bags are not rat proof.
- Do not leave excess pet food sitting out.
- Wash pet food dishes daily.
- Feed birds from a bird feeder at least four feet off the ground. Clean seed from the ground.

Remove all shelter sources

- Get rid of all unnecessary articles, junk and large rubbish items.
- Cut weeds and grass.
- Store lumber and firewood on racks that are at least 18 inches above the ground.
- Clean dog kennel and pen areas weekly. Clean daily if rats are present.

Remove building access

- Seal all holes and openings within 3 feet of the ground.
- Seal all holes and openings 1/2 inch or larger.
- Use 17-gauge hardware cloth or 24-gauge sheet metal to seal openings.

Although an infestation of rats can be controlled for a while with poisons or traps, long-term control can only be achieved if food and shelter are removed.