

# RAT PROOFING

There are 6 basic devices for keeping these rodents out of buildings:

1. Wooden door jambs can be flashed with sheet metal to protect them from rat gnawing. Because open doors provide easy entry for rodents, both the screen doors and wooden doors to establishments should be equipped with reliable self-closing devices.
2. Vents and windows can be made secure against rat entry by screening them with heavy wire mesh, preferably in a sheet-metal frame. If desired, insect screening can also be incorporated into the frame. Wood surfaces exposed to gnawing must be covered by the frame.
3. Metal guards of suitable construction should be placed around or over wires and pipes to prevent rats from using them to gain entrance into a building.
4. Openings around pipes or conduits should either be covered with sheet metal patches or filled with concrete or brick and mortar.
5. The use of concrete for basement floors and for foundations not only prevents rat entry, but increases the value of your property.
6. Floor drains, transoms, mail drops, and fan openings should be covered or screened.

**Safe Clean-up:** urine and droppings left by rats could be contaminated with disease. Sprinkle droppings with a bleach/water solution and always wear gloves when cleaning up contaminated areas or handling dead rodents.



Richmond City Department of Public Health  
Division of Community Environmental  
Programs

900 East Marshall Street - Room B-2  
Richmond, VA 23219

Telephone: 646-3160

RATS  
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WHAT YOU  
NEED TO  
KNOW

Richmond City Department of Public Health

# **RATS**

## **ARE LIVING IN YOUR YARD, HOUSE OR ALLEY...**



### **Control of rodents on your property is your responsibility.**

Please cooperate with the Health Department in its effort to rid our city of these filthy, destructive, disease-carrying creatures. Take a few minutes today to inspect your property for evidence of rat harborage.

#### **THERE ARE THREE PRIMARY METHODS OF CONTROLLING RATS:**

- 1. RAT KILLING**
- 2. RAT PROOFING**
- 3. GOOD SUSTAINED SANITATION**

## **Recognition of Rodent Signs**

*It is unusual to see rats during the daytime as they are typically active at night.*

**DROPPINGS** - The presence of rat feces is one of the most certain indications of an infestation. Fresh droppings become dry and hard and have a dull grayish appearance, and will crumble when pressed with a stick.

**RUNWAYS** - Rats occupy only a limited area and use the same paths and odor trails that they are familiar with, as they are very cautious and suspicious. Outdoors in vegetation, such as grass or weeds, 2 or 3 inch paths can be seen where rats have taken harborage.

**BURROWS** - Burrows are found in earth-banks, hedgerows, along walls, under rubbish or concrete slabs, and near dog houses. The presence of food-fragments or freshly dug earth at burrow entrances also indicates an active burrow.

**Live or Dead Rats** - Positive proof of a rodent infestation is the sighting of a live or dead rat. As a rule, only in very heavy infestations will you see a live rat. Dead rats may indicate either a current or past infestation.

By far the most important method of control is **GOOD SANITATION**. Keep your yards, sheds, and trash storage areas free of garbage.

Dog food (left-overs) and dog feces should be removed daily.

**REMOVE THE FOOD SOURCE:** Stop feeding rats and giving them a home, and you will control the factors that cause rat infestation.



**BAITING** is most effective only after all food sources have been removed from your's and your neighbor's properties. Follow manufacturer's directions closely when using bait.