

## Let's work together to prevent rodents.

Rats have been a part of the Massachusetts ecosystem since the area was originally settled in the early 17th century. They are commonly found in most urban areas, including Marlborough and other neighboring communities.

Like all animals, in order to thrive rats need three things:

**FOOD**  
**WATER**  
**SHELTER**

The best way to prevent rats from making a home in your neighborhood is to make your house unattractive to rats by taking away sources of food, water, and shelter.

**Share this information with your neighbors. Rodent problems are a community issue. Working together will help reduce this problem.**

For professional advice and/or possible treatment options, contact a **licensed pest control company.**

- If you rent, talk with your landlord.
- Ask around and talk to neighbors for referrals and recommendations.
- A good company will:
  - Inspect your property before giving a quote
  - Give you a detailed written report and action plan personalized to your property and your needs
  - Make referrals for structural repair
  - Revisit and re-evaluate until your pest problem is gone
  - Educate you on how to prevent rats in the future

To report a rodent sighting:  
[bit.ly/RodentSightingForm](http://bit.ly/RodentSightingForm)



Health Department  
Marlborough City Hall  
Lower Level  
140 Main St  
Marlborough, MA 01752

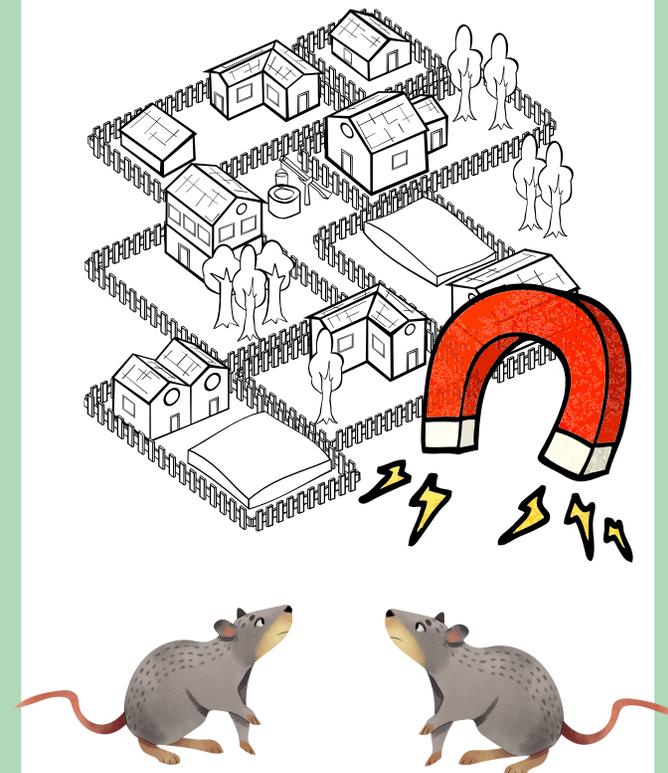
508-460-3571

City of Marlborough, MA



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

# Don't Attract the Rats!



**Learn what you can do to make your home unattractive to rats.**

# FOOD

## WHAT DO RATS EAT?

- Rats are omnivorous and will eat a combination of fruits, vegetables, grains, and meat.
- They prefer a balanced diet of cereal grains, meat, fish, nuts, and fruit.

## FOOD SOURCES

- Food items in household garbage offer all of their favorite foods and also satisfy their water needs.
- Other sources around your home include:
  - Animal food (from pets, birds, livestock, etc.)
  - Birdseed on the ground
  - Vegetable gardens
  - Fruit and nut trees
  - Ornamental shrubs and vines with fruits and berries low to the ground.



# WATER

## HOW MUCH WATER DO RATS NEED?

- Rats only require 1/2-1 ounce of water daily when eating dry foods and less when moist foods are available (like fruit).
- Rats can swim and are able to tread water for up to three days.



## WATER SOURCES

- Standing water:
  - Bird baths
  - Buckets
  - Discarded tires
  - Pet water bowls
  - Window pits near basements
  - Clogged rain gutters
- Leaks from:
  - Roof
  - Pipes/gutters
  - Outdoor faucets
  - Garden hoses

# SHELTER

## WHERE DO RATS LIVE?

- Rats often live in underground burrows. The burrows can be found alongside homes, fences, sheds, woodpiles, and tree roots. Burrows are generally 2-4 inches wide.
- Rats can hide out in basements, crawl spaces, attics, and sewers.



## SHELTER SOURCES

- Lumber or clutter on the ground
- Bushes, overgrown shrubbery, weeds and grass over 12 inches high
- Broken sewer pipes
- Rubbish including tires, engines, cans, drums, tree limbs, doors, etc.
- Abandoned vehicles and appliances
- Dilapidated buildings, board fences, walls, or concrete slabs