

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 business is to make your business unattractive to rats by taking away sources of food, water, and shelter.

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**.

- Ask around and talk to neighboring businesses 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



City of Marlborough, MA

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

508-460-3571



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Don't Attract the Rats!



Learn what you can do to make your business 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, clutter, grease stains and odors can attract rats.
- Food items in garbage offer all of their favorite foods and also satisfy their water needs.

WHAT TO DO?

- Inspect kitchens, storage rooms and garbage areas daily to make sure they are kept clean.
- Keep trash containers and/or dumpsters closed at all times, tightly sealed, not overfilled, and emptied frequently.
- Replace dumpsters and trash bins that have gnaw marks or other holes.
- Regularly clean your trash receptacles and area around your dumpster.



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:
 - Buckets
 - Discarded tires
 - Window pits near basements
 - Clogged rain gutters
- Leaks from:
 - Roof
 - Pipes/gutters
 - Outdoor faucets

WHAT TO DO?

- Remove standing water and fix leaks.

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, cans, drums, tree limbs, doors, dumpsters, etc.
- Abandoned vehicles and appliances
- Dilapidated buildings, board fences, walls, or concrete slabs

WHAT TO DO?

- Seal all holes & cracks in your building.
- Use screens on open windows & doors, & door sweeps on the bottom of doors.
- **REMEMBER** a rat can get through a hole that is only 1/2 inch in size.
- Don't forget to check for gaps around pipes, behind refrigerators & in your hood vent.
- Fill the holes with steel wool & hold in place using caulk or another appropriate sealant. If the hole is large, cover it with 1/4 inch wire mesh.