

Oh, Rats!

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, due to readily available food sources.



To report a rodent sighting,
please visit:
bit.ly/RodentSightingForm



**Discouraging rats
from living in our
city will be most
successful as a
community effort.**



Turn over for information on what you need to know about rats, what to look for, and tips on how to prevent them.

City of Marlborough, MA



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

TIPS ON PREVENTION

ELIMINATE FOOD SUPPLY

- Do not leave pet food out at night
- Remove birdfeeders that rodents can access
- Remove water sources
- Make sure your compost is maintained and covered.



MAINTAIN YOUR PROPERTY

- Keep grills clean
- Store woodpiles neatly with a 12-inch ground clearance
- Remove dog and cat feces promptly
- Thin vegetation and keep grass and shrubbery cut short.
- Pick up fallen tree fruit.

RODENT-PROOF STRUCTURES

- Don't give rats a place to live. Cover openings that are greater than ½ inch in diameter with concrete, sheet metal or wire mesh.
- Keep trash containers and/or dumpsters closed at all times, tightly sealed and emptied frequently



WHAT TO LOOK FOR

RAT BURROWS: These are holes in the ground 4-6 inches in diameter where rats may be living. Look for burrows under fences, buildings, homes and cement slabs surrounding structures. You can test whether the burrow is active by filling in the hole with dirt and checking to see if it is cleared quickly.

RAT TRACKS: In the winter, you may be able to spot rodent tracks leading to or from a burrow.

DROPPINGS: Rats can leave 40 -50 droppings per day and are larger than mouse droppings (approx. ¾ inch in diameter)

SMUDGE MARKS (body oils) on walls

SOUND of movement in walls and attics

FAMILY PETS staring intently at a blank wall

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

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

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