City Park
Rodent IPM®
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Bobby Corrigan, Ph.D.
Urban Rodentologist
RMC Pest Management Consulting
Briarcliff Manor, NY.
cityrats@mac.com
Twitter: @rodentologist
The Rodent Academy in Seattle
Dr. Corrigan, Rodentologist
CHAPTER 1

RATS & MICE

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Robert M. Corrigan

PCT

Rodent Control

A Practical Guide for Pest Management Professionals
Norway Rats

QUICK STATS:

Color: Brown with scattered black hairs; gray to white underside

Shape: Long, heavily-bodied, blunt muzzle, small ears and eyes

Size: 7 – 9½ inches long

Region: Found throughout the U.S.
Norway Rat
- rounded ends
- Average Length: 3/4 inches

Roof Rat
- pointed ends
- Average Length: 1/2 inches

House Mouse
- pointed ends
- Average Length: 1/4 inches
The Rat Ecology of the City Park

1. Natural earthen burrows

2. Protective cover among certain landscapes - ground covers and thick shrubs.

3. Access to trash receptacles

4. Access to discarded food on the streets
Sewer rats can burrow 8 feet or more through solid ground.

Breaks in sewer lateral

Tree roots damaging sewer line

Sewer rat entering basement through burrow
Fig. 3. Norway rat burrow system beneath a pile of boards.
The Rat Ecology of the City Park

5. Easily attainable water sources

6. Pigeon/squirrel feeding

7. Pedestrian food littering

8. Natural foods: birds, eggs, pigeons, insects
STOP FEEDING PIGEONS!

Due to the ever-increasing number of rats and the consistent fouling of the footpath, visitors are kindly asked to STOP feeding the pigeons in this park.

Your cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.
Bait Boxes in Parks

1. Landscape Bait Stations
2. Low Profile Bait Stations
City parks are vulnerable:
On Tuesday: rat free
On Wednesday: Humans dig up Street
On Wednesday Night: Rats dig up park
A Quick OTJ Guide for City Park Inspections

Find the food sources (often nearest the heaviest used garbage cans).

Pedestrian discards

Busy street curbs
A Quick OTJ Guide for City Park Inspections

Find the veg. cover nearest the food e.g., thick bushes, thick ground ivy.

Look for dirt mounds

Look For Burrows
Catch Basins and Sewers……...

Nearby parks serve as replenishers.
Sewer rats can burrow 8 feet or more through solid ground

Breaks in sewer lateral

Tree roots damaging sewer line

Sewer rat entering basement through burrow
Infested City Lots Nearby Parks will serve as replenishers
The Rat Ecology of a “Empty Lot

Junk piles for harborage; think 2- dimensional.

Subject to pedestrian food discards

Ground for burrows

Vegetation (weeds) are highly conducive

Quick access to street food discards
The Rat Ecology of a “Empty Lot

Easily attainable water sources

Sidewalk/lot interface for burrows

Fence protects against people; promotes rats (food trap; predators; touch)

Lot borders subject to becoming local trash station.
A Quick OTJ Guide for City Lot Inspections

Find the food sources - rats **must** have access to food.

Vegetation and junk coincide

Next to bldg. foundations for heat and protection.
A Quick OTJ Guide for City Lot Inspections

Healthy weeds? Healthy soil = rats

Look for dirt mounds

Look For Burrows
Vegetation Management is Key
Avoid creeping ground covers that carpet rat-vulnerable areas

Avoid cave shaped bushes that grow all the way to the ground. Keep pruned up.

Vase-shaped plants are less rat vulnerable.
Landscape Bait Stations
Low Profile Bait stations
WeatherBlok XT
RODENTICIDE

Kills warfarin-resistant Norway Rats and House Mice.
Rodents may consume a lethal dose in one feeding.
With first dead rodents appearing four to five days after treatment begins.

CAUTION

Always out of sight of children.

ACTIVE INGREDIENT:
Bromadiolone
0.334 %

NOS. INGREDIENTS

TOTAL

EPA Reg. No. 10182-329
EPA Est. No. 412382-M0-1
Prevent rats from becoming a problem on your property!

- Open up or remove double fencing.
- Keep garden sheds closed and check regularly for evidence of rats.
- Stack firewood off ground and away from buildings and fences.
- Thin or remove dense vegetation such as ivy.
- Check garage shelves and storage lofts for evidence of rats.
- Harvest fruits/nuts regularly. Pick up all dropped fruits/nuts.
- Use compost bins with secure covers.
- Weather-strip garage doors so they close tightly.
- Only feed birds in a cleanable area.
- Pick up pet droppings.
- Feed your pet only the amount of food it will eat in one sitting.
- Screen or close openings under overlapping roof lines.
- Repair damaged ventilation screens.
- Seal all openings around pipes, cables, and wires that enter walls and foundations.
- Provide tight fitting covers for crawl spaces.
- Do not accumulate trash.

How many rats can you find in this picture?
Burrow baiting for rats

Loose bait pellets are allowed in metered doses with an applicator into burrows.

**Do not** cave in burrows immediately after baiting as rats will kick the soil back out.

Wait for 7 days then cave in.
Burrow baiting for rats

Re-inspect; rebait active burrows.

Monitor for and remove dead rats while baiting

Secondary poisoning threat to hawks and owls is significant.
Baiting of City Lots

1. Tamper-resistant BS; 25, 50, 100 ft. depending on rat severity, and perhaps only in areas of rats!!

To supplement burrow baiting.

2. Bait stations checked init.; 14 days;

Thereafter EVERY MONTH routine.
Uses a heart-stopping electric shock to HUMANELY & INSTANTLY KILL the rodent, with no blood or mess.

Automatic circuit disconnect eliminates accidental shock when cleaning

Discreet color and design doesn't advertise a rodent problem

2-Piece housing allows the unit to be easily cleaned and serviced

All weather housing works even in the rain. Scrub the kill plate in warm soapy water and let dry overnight to get rid of any debris on the plate/connections.
Dry Ice For Rats (DIFR)
EPA Registration 2017
Individual States Need to Self-Register
Dry Ice For Rats (DIFR)

High effective
Very low cost
Simple to use as a direct burrow application
No threat to hawks and other raptors
Rat Ice ™

New pelleted dry ice product in process of registration in Washington.

- Nontoxic to humans and pets when applied in the prescribed manner
- A green approach, posing no secondary threats to non-target animals
- A humane asphyxiate (not a fumigant) that allows animals to die in their sleep
- Effective in killing the ectoparasites — fleas, lice, mites and ticks, for example — associated with rodents
- Effective in controlling even bait-aversive and trap-cautious rats
Rodent proof cans and “smart” litter bins – alert city staff via sensors when full

How to get rid of rats and mice

Rodents (rats and mice) are common pests in our area and can be dangerous. They can ruin your food, destroy things in your home and start electrical fires. Rats and mice also carry diseases that can make people sick.

1. File a complaint about rats
2. Keep rodents (rats) away
3. Seal up to prevent entry of rodents and rats
4. Keep rats out of sewer pipes
5. Trap and bait for rodents
6. Cleaning up after rodents
7. Guidance for cleaning and disinfection of vehicles with rodent infestations
8. When to hire a professional pest control company
9. Related resources

Watch a video on how to prevent rats from getting into your home and what to do if you find rat droppings.
Thank you!

Barbara DeCaro
Resource Conservation Coordinator
Seattle Parks and Recreation
206-615-1660
Barbara.decaro@seattle.gov