

5 STEPS TO CITYWIDE RAT REDUCTION



FIND THEM

- Look for places where rats live. Most rats live in nests or burrows. Burrows are holes in dirt or concrete from one to four inches wide, with loose excavated dirt outside. Burrows can be found under bushes and plants, or along walls, sidewalks/driveways, or porch steps. They will often have an entrance and two exit holes.
- Look for droppings. They are often found close to garbage. If they're moist and dark, the rats are currently in the area.
- Look for holes and gnaw marks on wood and plastic garbage cans, or evidence of trash being eaten.
- Check walls and grass for signs of runways. Rats run along the same path many times a day, leaving dark greasy track marks along walls and worn down paths in grass and dirt.



STARVE THEM

- Rats only need one ounce of food each day. Don't make your garbage their food.
- Put garbage in hard plastic or metal cans with tight lids.
 - Pick up dog waste in your yard.
 - Do not leave food for cats/dogs/birds out at night.



EVICT THEM

- Don't make your yard a nesting zone for rats. Don't provide them with a place to live and raise their young.
- Remove piles of debris and raise stacked wood off the ground by 18 inches or more.
 - Check for openings where pipes or wires enter the building, under eaves, and around foundations, doors, and windows.
 - Use cement, 1/4 inch hardware cloth, wire mesh, or steel wool to seal any openings that rats might use.



EXTERMINATE THEM

Burrow destruction and trapping are the two most effective ways to exterminate rats around your home.

TRAPPING - Trapping is the preferred method of killing rats directly. Wooden snap traps are inexpensive and effective. Peanut butter usually works as bait. Set the trap and place it in an area with the most rodent activity, baited side against or near a wall or known rat pathway. The traps may be placed in a box with openings on both ends to protect non-targets. Traps should be placed **AFTER** sundown and picked up **BEFORE** sunrise to reduce non-target death or injury.

BURROW DESTRUCTION - Find the burrow during day/light hours. Seal all holes except one. Using either a smoke bomb (Giant Destroyer) or dry ice, you can suffocate all rats inside while they sleep. Seal the last hole when complete. Do not use smoke bombs near flammable surfaces, and neither near living spaces or confined areas where smoke or CO₂ can accumulate. Follow directions on the package.

DO NOT USE RAT POISON



ORGANIZE

It takes a community effort to get rid of rats for good!

- Talk to neighbors about your efforts and ask to help them.
- Join Ferndale Rat Patrol on Facebook and report rat activity to Ferndale Code Enforcement.



STAY SAFE AND CLEAN

- Always wear gloves when touching potentially contaminated areas or picking up dead rats.
- Wash your hands after doing anything concerning rats (even when using gloves).
- Keep pets and children away from areas of rat activity.
- Vaccinate your dogs for Leptospirosis, a dangerous disease spread by rats.
- Sweep up droppings and wash down areas of rat activity with a mild bleach solution (one part bleach, 10 parts water), allowing it to soak for 10 minutes before scrubbing.