

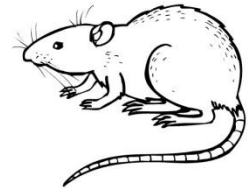
RATS! Who Wants Them?

Where do rats live outside the home?

- Under wood piles or lumber that is not being used often
- Under bushes, vines and in tall grasses that are not trimmed or cut back
- Under rocks in the garden
- In cars, appliances and furniture that has been put outside and is no longer being used
- In and around trash and garbage that has been left on the ground
- In holes under buildings

Where do rats live inside the home?

- In the insulation of walls or ceilings
- Inside the crawl spaces
- Behind or under cupboards, counters, bathtubs and shower stalls
- Near hot water heaters and furnaces
- In basements, attics and wherever things are stored in boxes, paper or cloth



What foods bring rats into my yard and neighborhood?

- Garbage that rats can get into, like garbage cans with loose lids, plastic or paper bags, and litter
- Food for pets and birds that has not been eaten. Birdseed on the ground, pet food in pet dishes, bread crumbs, etc
- Fruits and berries that have fallen to the ground
- Compost pile that isn't taken care of the right way (do not put meat, fish, poultry, or dairy in the compost)
- Dog droppings

What do rats eat when they get inside the house?

- THE SAME FOODS WE DO!
- Foods, fats, oils that have been spilled and left on counters, floors, appliances and tables
- Grains, like cereal, oats, rice and vegetables like potatoes and carrots that are in cardboard boxes or plastic bags
- Pet food in boxes or bags
- Any garbage that is not in a can with a tight lid

Keep rats away from your home!

- The time to act is before the signs (droppings) of a rat or mouse
- Stack fire wood 18 inches off the ground and away from all buildings
- Birdfeeders and seed should be on poles at least 6 feet high so rats can't get to them. Also make sure to place them far enough away from fences, buildings, trees and bushes so the rats can't jump on them.
- Keep garbage can lids closed tightly
- Plant bushes so they will stay at least 3 feet from your house
- Keep yards and alleys clean. Take junk to the dump!
- If you feed them, they will stay. Pick up fruit and vegetables in your yard
- Do not compost any animal products (fish, meat, chicken, cheese, butter). Keep lids tight
- Use only rodent resistant composters
- In basements keep any food in closed containers that rats can't chew through
- Cover all openings to your house. Rats can get into very small places
- Do not leave your pet food outside. If your pet doesn't eat it, the rats will

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