

Rentokil

The Experts in Pest Control

Tips for the prevention of rats



Rats are one of the world's most pervasive and dangerous pests, leaving a path of destruction wherever they go. Rats can contaminate and destroy food, equipment, wiring, and physical structures by gnawing, burrowing and defecating. They can harbor and spread dangerous – and sometimes deadly – bacteria, and their presence can frighten guests and signal uncleanness to your customers.

Where you might see them

- Roof rats can often be found in higher levels of the facility, sometimes living in ceilings. Outside, they will be spotted in trees and vegetation and – as their name suggests – on rooftops.
- Norway rats tend to inhabit lower areas in the facility and like to burrow.
- All rats like to hide and can be found in undisturbed areas such as corners and storage spaces.

Tips for prevention

- Practice the First In, First Out (FIFO) rotation for stock to avoid having product undisturbed for long periods of time.
- Develop and maintain an inspection process for incoming goods, particularly in warehouse environments.
- Install door sweeps on all exterior doors that do not seal flush with the floor, including mechanical and storage rooms, to keep rats from entering.
- Remove standing water and repair any dripping faucets or leaks, both inside and out. Do not forget to inspect roof and gutter areas for standing water, well.
- Keep outdoor garbage receptacles and dumpsters tightly covered and at a distance from the building. Remove trash regularly.
- Trim outdoor trees and shrubs to ensure that they do not contact the building.
- Remove and reduce clutter both inside and outside the facility.
- Seal all holes and openings on the exterior and in food areas, paying particular attention to gaps and holes around pipes, plumbing, doors, windows, wiring and electrical exits/entries in floors, walls and ceilings. Because rodents can gnaw through many common proofing materials, use metal materials such as hardware cloth, aluminum flashing, aluminum screening or concrete.
- Inspect roof areas for gaps and openings around vents, HVAC, and other mechanical units. Seal these gaps with the materials listed above.
- Stay involved in your community. Work with owners of properties adjacent to yours, especially if they are vacant, to ensure regular pest inspections are conducted.

Identification and biology

- The roof rat, also known as the black rat or ship rat, is approximately 18 inches long from nose to end of tail, dark gray to black in color, and has a tail that is longer than its body. It has a sharp, pointed nose, ears that stand erect, and large eyes. This rat is an excellent climber.
- The Norway rat, sometimes called the brown rat or wharf rat, is brownish-black in color and is approximately 18 inches in length from nose to tip of tail. Its tail is shorter than its body length. Its small ears lay flat to its head, and it has small, beady eyes. It can weigh up to a pound, and has large haunches.
- A healthy female rat can produce up to 6 litters per year of 6 - 12 young each.
- Because they have oily coats and prefer to run along straight lines, rats leave tell-tale grease or rub marks along walls and other surfaces they rub against while in motion.
- Rats are neophobic, meaning they do not like new things in their environment. They will change their movement patterns if something new, such as a trap, is introduced, making them hard to capture.

For a **FREE** consultation and inspection contact
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