

RODENT CONTROL



**Rats will not establish themselves
where there is no Food or Harborage**

REMOVE food and water SOURCE

- Garbage should be kept in large plastic containers with a secure fitting lid, and any kind of debris should be removed. It is essential to take care of hygiene and sanitation in order to rodent proof your home.
- Remove all pet food immediately and clean up animal waste
- Get rid of all standing water.
- Check for leaking hoses, check that drains are covered and secure.
- Do not hang seed bird feeders, most of the food blows out of the feeders and onto the ground.



SHELTER

Along with eliminating rodents' food source, removing their shelter is another major step to take to sanitize your home. Some helpful tips include

- Properly maintain landscaping – trim any overgrown vegetation & shrubbery until ground underneath is visible
- Remove any debris like rock piles & old equipment
- Elevate lumber & firewood at least 18 inches from the ground

In general, rats are looking for two basic things: food and shelter. In some cases, a compost pile ends up being both. There are several simple ways to both prevent rats from getting into your compost pile and for getting them to leave if they've already found it.

BURY FOOD SCRAPS to Keep Rats Out of Compost

Usually, rats are drawn to compost piles because they are easy sources of food. In general, you should never add meat or dairy to a compost pile because those items are a sure draw for rodents. (. Whenever you add food scraps to the compost bin, either dig in a little and deposit your food waste inside, covering it up again when you've added it all or have a couple inches worth of grass clippings or leaves set aside to layer on top of any food scraps you add.

DON'T ADD Food Waste

If rats are a real problem, and you just don't want to have to think about it, forego adding food waste to your compost pile.

KEEP the Contents MOIST

One of the two things rats are looking for when they invade your compost is shelter. A dried-out compost pile not only is inefficient in terms of making compost, but it's a haven for rats. Just think: It's a dry, warm, insulated place to sleep that just might have a few tasty morsels to snack on. If you make sure your compost pile is always moist throughout—not wet, which results in anaerobic conditions and unpleasant odors—it won't be a place rats will be interested in making their own. By turning the pile regularly and giving it a bit of water during dry spells, you can make it much less hospitable to rodents.

By putting these tips to work in your own compost bin or pile, you can ensure that it is a rodent-free zone.

If you have an issue with rodents, call a local pest control company for assistance.