

# Rats

## Rat Facts:

- Eat any type of food, but prefer high-quality foods such as meat and fresh grain.
- Are primarily active at night.
- Have poor eyesight, but keen sense of taste, hearing and smell.
- Can enter structures by gnawing, climbing and jumping.
- Can swim through sewers and enter buildings through toilets or broken drainpipes.
- Can enter opening larger than 1/2 inch across.

## Interesting to Know

- Rats constantly explore and learn about their environment.
- Rats memorize the locations of pathways, obstacles, food, water, shelter and other elements in their area.
- They can quickly detect and tend to avoid new objects placed in a familiar environment.

## Identification

**Norway rat** is the most commonly found rat, also known as the brown rat or sewer rat.

- Norway rats are larger rodents that weigh about 11 ounces. Total size length is about 13 to 18 1/2-inch. Body is 7 to 10 inches and tail is as long as body, about the 6 to 8 1/2-inch.
- Indoors, Norway rats tend to remain in basements, spaces in between walls or the ground floor.
- Norway rat builds burrows along building foundations, beneath rubbish, around gardens, and in unused sewers and storm drains.

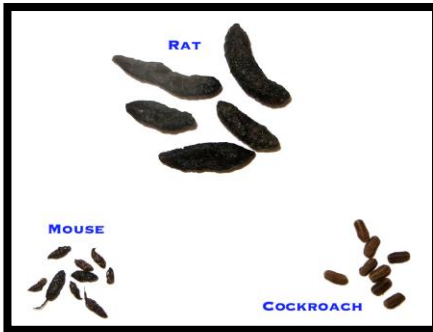
## Why are Rats a Problem?

- Rats eat and contaminate food.
- Rats can spread diseases to people and pets: murine typhus, leptospirosis, salmonellosis, plague and rat bite fever, and others.
- Rats damage buildings and other property by their gnawing and burrowing behavior.

# Rats

**Call a professional extermination company if you suspect there are rats within your facility.**

**Watch for an increase in rat activity as seasons change.**



Pest Dropping Photo Credit:

<http://blogs.cornell.edu/nysipm/tag/droppings/>

## Additional resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/rodents>

<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/>

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/>

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact 311 (outside Minneapolis call 612-673-3000) or email

[Minneapolis311@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Minneapolis311@minneapolismn.gov)

Ask to speak with a health inspector.

People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users can call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

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612-673-2800.

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## Signs of Infestation

- Droppings that are about 3/4-inch long and 1/8 inch in diameter throughout building.
- Urine staining (use black light for better visibility).
- Gnawed doorways and/or food packaging (look for spilled foods).
- Rat tracks in areas with heavy debris, dust, or mud
- Rub marks on walls in heavily traveled areas.
- Burrows are usually found in earth banks, along walls, under rubbish and outdoor buildings.
- Musty, pungent odor.
- Sounds at night such as a scratching, gnawing, and fighting.

## Prevention

### Exterior:

- Seal all holes or gaps with areas larger than 1/2 inch on outside buildings.
- Maintain outdoor areas clean and free of clutter.
- Keep lids to disposal bins closed.
- Keep bushes and shrubbery trimmed.

### Interior:

- Know how to spot the signs of rat activity and monitor any troublesome areas.
- Maintain areas free of food debris.
- Remove cardboard and clutter from rooms.
- Seal all electrical conduits, heating ducts, pipes, and pipe chases.
- Install door sweeps and other devices to seal any holes or cracks leading to outside.
- Provide routine maintenance and spot checks to all areas of building to prevent rats getting in.
- Work with pest control company to determine a regular schedule that fits your building needs.