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RAT INFORMATION & TREATMENT PREPARATION

What should I know about rats?

- The two most common rats found in the Greater Toronto Area are Norway Rats and Roof Rats.
- Identifying which type of rat has invaded your property or structure is key to finding the proper solution or treatment for the infestation.
- Rats consume and contaminate food and transmit diseases and parasites to other animals and humans.
- Rats can survive in most conditions and usually are found around buildings, homes, open fields, gardens and around anywhere garbage is kept.
- Rats are good swimmers and climbers and can get into structures through sewers, chewing through wood, climbing, jumping and squeezing through small spaces up to a 1/2 inch.
- Norway rats can have four to six litters per year with up to five or six babies in each litter. Roof rats can have three to five litters per year with up to five to eight babies in each litter.
- Rats are active mostly at night but have poor eyesight. They have an amazing sense of smell, hearing, taste and touch.
- Rats generally memorize paths and locations for food and water sources and can quickly recognize new objects such as traps and baits. They may stay away from these new foreign objects for up to a week before approaching them.

Norway Rats

- Often called Brown Rats or Sewer Rats, they are burrowing rodents often found along building foundations, underneath steps, wood piles and in garden areas.
- When Norway Rats infest buildings they usually stay in the basement or ground level.

Roof Rats

- Roof Rats are smaller than Norway Rats.
- Their head and body combined are smaller than the length of their tails which enables them to be very agile climbers allowing them to live and nest above ground in dense bushes and nests.
- In buildings Roof Rats are most commonly found in enclosed and elevated areas such as attics, walls and drop ceilings.



Why are rats a problem/nuisance?

- Rats consume and contaminate food and animal feed. They also damage packaging materials in which food is stored in.
- Rats can also cause damage to wooden structures, walls, doors and also tear up insulation to build their nests.

Damage most likely caused by Norway Rats:

- Burrowing under foundation which may put stress on the structure
- Gnawing on all types of materials such as copper, lead, wood and plastic.

Damage most likely caused by Roof Rats:

- Living in the attic will cause considerable damage such as ripping up insulation and gnawing on cables and wiring.
- Large brownish-yellow urination stains can become visible where the rats nest and feed especially in drop ceilings.

Do I have an infestation?

- There are a few simple things you can do in and around your home or business to determine whether or not you have a rat infestation.

Inspect the following areas:

- Attic
- Garage
- Basement
- Rafters or beams

Look for the following clues:

- Burrows around the home
- Nest fragments around wood piles
- Rat fur along baseboards or doors
- Evidence of digging
- Family pet has recently captured a rodent



What can I do to ensure the Rat infestation won't return after treatment?

- Sanitation is an integral part of rat control and must be kept up. For instance garbage should be placed in an enclosed, tight fitting, cupboard garbage receptacle.
- Keep from feeding your pets outside. Because of their keen sense of smell, rodents will be attracted.
- Lack of sanitation will take away from the treatment being administered by your pest control technician.
- Keep branches trimmed three to four feet away from structures.
- Inspect the exterior of the property for holes approximately a 1/2 inch or bigger.

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