HOW TO KEEP RATS OUT!

Rats are some of the most troublesome and damaging rodents in the United States. They consume and contaminate food, damage structures and property, and transmit parasites and diseases to other animals and humans. When food, water and shelter are available, rat populations can reproduce and grow quickly. Listed below are some easy and inexpensive ways to keep rats out.

HOUSEHOLD TIPS TO CONTROL RAT PROBLEMS

STARVE THEM OUT!

- Rats will eat your food if you do not keep it in rat-proof containers. Store food in metal or glass containers with tight fitting lids.
- Remove pet foods and water immediately after feeding.
- Trash is also attractive to rats. Keep trash in a metal container with a tight fitting lid. DO NOT store trash in plastic bags only. DO NOT place trash bags out for pickup until the morning of collection day.

BUILD THEM OUT!!

- Seal all openings larger than ½ inch in diameter or rats may enter your home. This includes openings around service pipes through walls and floors, torn window screening, door jams, foundation walls, and cracked flooring and baseboards. Use sheet metal, cement, or wire mesh for repairs.
- Elevate stored materials at least 18 inches off the ground. Clean out basements and store all items on shelves. Old appliances should be put out for pickup immediately. The entire floor should be visible.

KNOCK THEM OUT!!!

- The safest poison baits are anticoagulants. Read the label before you buy. Baits should not be placed in areas accessible to children and pets.
- Traps can be an effective weapon against rats inside your home. Use fresh bacon, fish, or peanut butter as bait. Make sure to place the trigger against the wall.