

RAT TYPES

The Norway Rat is most common in the Great Lake states and is often mistaken for the less common Roof Rat unless you know their traits.

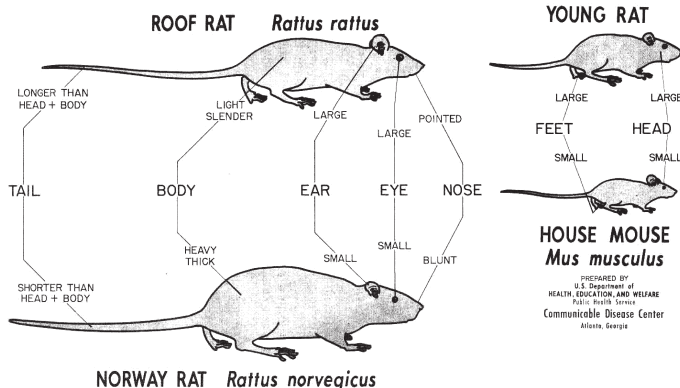
Norway Rats

- Large and stocky, about 16" in length (head to tip of tail) with a tail shorter than their body.
- When pulled back, the tail won't reach past their ears.
- They weigh between 12-16 ounces, sometimes more and have a more rounded snout.
- Fur is grayish brown, or blackish or reddish brown with a buff brown or white belly.
- Norway rats tend to nest in burrows.



Roof Rats

- Long, sleek and agile, the Roof rat is about 16" in length (head to tip of tail) with a tail longer than their body.
- When pulled back, the tail will reach past their nose.
- They weigh between 5-10 ounces - much less than the Norway and have a pointed snout.
- They live and nest above ground in shrubs and trees or in elevated spaces in structures.



SIGNS OF RAT INFESTATION

If you have a rat infestation in or around your property here are some helpful identifiers to look for.

1. Live or dead rats are spotted on the property.

2. Burrows

- Burrows are often made alongside building structures, fence lines, walkways, patios, sheds, under low decks and near drains.
- If they reappear after being filled, there could be a sewer line break and/or a rat problem.



3. Fecal droppings

- Rat leave cylindrical droppings up to 3/4" long.
- The Norway rat droppings are blunt at both ends.



4. Gnaw marks or entry holes along walls



5. Dirty or greasy rub marks

Are often found along frequently traveled runways or paths. The marks come from the oil and dirt that collects in the rat's fur.

How to Prevent Rat Infestations

1. Eliminate access to food

- Keep garbage in metal containers with tight fitting lids. Try using bungee cords through the handles to keep the lid on if necessary.
- Do not leave pet food outside for more than one hour. Keep dog, cat and other animal food in tightly sealed metal or glass containers; no plastics.
- Remove bird and wildlife feeders.
- Fallen fruits and nuts, including the pits of fruit trees, should be picked up daily.



2. Remove or eliminate hiding places and harborages

- Remove abandoned automobiles, furniture, and appliances.
- Firewood and lumber should be stored away from walls and 18 inches off the ground.
- Remove all overgrown brush, weeds, tall grass and plants away from the foundation of the house, garage and the yard.
- Communicate and work with neighbors to prevent future rodent problems.
- Abandoned buildings and seldom entered structures need to be identified to prevent problems.



3. Remove easy access to dwellings

- Inspect the exterior of your home and garage for cracks and openings that are larger than a quarter.
- Ensure vents for crawl spaces, eaves, vent fans, etc. are screened with hardware cloth.



4. Rat Bait

- Baits are best applied by professionals to ensure effective use and minimize risk or translocation.
- When using baits, always use tamper-resistant bait to reduce risk to children and pets.
- Caution should always be used when using poisons.
- Be sure to read and carefully follow directions on the label or enlist the service of a pest control company.

