

TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK

BERGEN



COUNTY

SADDLE BROOK, NEW JERSEY 07662

Municipal Building
93 MARKET STREET

843-7100

RODENT AND PEST CONTROL INFORMATION FOR HOMEOWNERS AND TENANTS SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

PREVENTION

Secure Garbage

The best way to prevent rats from settling in your home and property is to dispose of your garbage carefully. Be sure to:

- Use garbage cans with tight-fitting lids to hold all garbage between pickups. **Note: Placing garbage at the curb in sealed plastic bags is prohibited!**
- Bring garbage to the curb as close to pick-up time as possible. Garbage left on the curb for too long attracts rats.

Destroy Potential Shelter

Make your home inhospitable to rats by attacking their favorite places to seek shelter and reproduce:

- Clean up any clutter or litter in and around your building, including your basement and yard.
- Remove piles of newspapers, paper bags, cardboard and bottles.
- Store items away from walls and off the ground.
- Control weeds and shrubs around your home.

Do Not Feed Wild Animals and Birds

- Feeding wild animals is against the law and attracts rats and other vermin.
- If you feed birds, use a covered bird feeder or weather guard.

REMOVAL

If you think rats may have invaded your home or property, follow these steps to find and remove them.

- Look for Evidence: Rats come out at night, so find out where rats go after dark. When the sun comes out, this will help you check for spots where rats live, such as nests and holes in dirt or concrete. Other evidence of rats may include moisture and dark rat droppings, holes and gnaw marks on garbage cans, greasy rub marks along walls and worn paths in the grass, and burrows in earthen areas or structural holes in sidewalks or building foundations.
- Clean Waste: Rats communicate with each other and attract more rats to them through their urine and droppings. Clean up droppings and wash greasy track marks with water and a mild bleach solution.
- Starve Them: Rats only need one ounce of food per day. Dispose of your garbage correctly and keep all your food in tightly sealed containers. Do not leave food outside for stray cats, pigeons, or squirrels.
- Kill Them: Homeowners without tenants can place rodent bait yourself, but we recommend leaving the job to a licensed pest management professional.

KEEP THEM OUT BY:

- Repairing property damage and sealing up cracks and holes in foundations, walls, floors, underneath doors, and around windows.
- Using a shovel to collapse any earthen burrows. Covering a burrow entrance with wood, cinder blocks, or rocks will not keep rats out. Do not place broken glass or chemicals into a burrow.
- Speak to a licensed pest management professional about the specific maintenance steps to close inactive burrows and seal small and large cracks and holes.