

# RAT CONTROL PROGRAM



*"It shall be unlawful for anyone to allow their property to be infested or be in such condition as to contribute to an existing or potential rat infestation."*

Chapter 39 – Montgomery County Code



Department of Health & Human Services  
Licensure & Regulatory Services  
Vector Control Program

2425 Reedie Drive, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Wheaton, Maryland 20902

## RODENTICIDES

All rodenticides are harmful to humans. Store them in the original labeled container and out of reach of children. Rodenticides must be used in accordance with label directions.

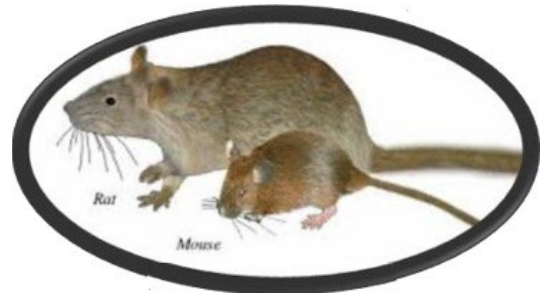
- ☞ Purchase single dose feeding poison.
- ☞ Look for active ingredients with the name of Brodifacoum, Bromadiolone, Bromethalin, or Cholecalciferol (at your local hardware stores).



If you suspect accidental poisoning, call your doctor or the Poison Control Center at 1-800-492-2414 (Baltimore) or the National Capital Poison Center at 202-625-3333 (D.C.)

## CHARACTERISTICS

|                       | NORWAY RAT                  | HOUSE MOUSE             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Total Length</b>   | 9-18 inches                 | 4-6 inches              |
| <b>Body Length</b>    | 5-12 inches                 | 2-3 inches              |
| <b>Average Weight</b> | 6-12 ounces                 | 0.5-1 ounce             |
| <b>Tail</b>           | Shorter in length than body | Equal in length to body |
| <b>Ears</b>           | Small                       | Large                   |
| <b>Color</b>          | Gray to Brown               | Gray                    |
| <b>Litter Size</b>    | 8-12                        | 5-6                     |



## RAT EXTERMINATION PROCEDURES

- ☞ Remove all available rat food sources.
- ☞ Place rodenticide packages in burrows, bait stations, or suspected pathways that are inaccessible to children and pets, as indicated on the label. If the package is removed by rats, wait 5 days and repeat baiting. If the package has been undisturbed for 7 days, stop treatment.
- ☞ When control is achieved, remove package from area and dispose of in accordance with label directions. Fill in burrows with soil and remove harborage.
- ☞ If burrows reopen, repeat above procedure.
- ☞ Without directly touching them, carefully remove any dead rats.



For Information call 3-1-1  
Outside Montgomery County call 240-777-0311  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311)

## Rat Elimination & Control is the Responsibility of the Property Owner

Complaints are received and investigated by the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Licensure and Regulatory Services Vector Control Team.

The Licensure and Regulatory Services Vector Control Team do not set out or provide poisons or traps to property owners.



### Why is Rat Control Important?

- ☞ Rats are known carriers of disease.
- ☞ They are a public health concern when near humans.
- ☞ Rats cause destruction of food supply and property.
- ☞ They are suspected of causing electrical fires.

## Signs of Rats

- ☞ Burrows: Holes in the ground 2-4 inches in diameter.
- ☞ Droppings: Rounded to tapered shape on each end, 3/8 to 3/4 inches long, 1/4 inches across.
- ☞ Runways: Paths created by rats in vegetation, close to walls, fences, and walkways because of traveling from harborage sites to food sources.
- ☞ Tracks: Rat footprints in mud, dust, fresh dirt, or snow. Approximately 1/2 inch across with 5 toe prints.

## Control Measures

- ☞ Eliminate food supply.
- ☞ Store food, pet food, and seed in rodent proof containers.
- ☞ Store garbage in garbage containers with tight fitting lids (do not store garbage in plastic bags).
- ☞ Reduce bird seed spillage by using the catch tray under the feeder.
- ☞ Eliminate points of entry.
- ☞ Elevate garbage cans and wood piles at least 18 inches off the ground.
- ☞ Remove fallen fruits and unused vegetable gardens.
- ☞ Cut tall grass and weeds.



## Food Sources

- ☞ Improperly stored garbage, soiled recyclables.
- ☞ Seed spillage from bird feeders.
- ☞ Dog food and dog droppings.
- ☞ Improperly stored food and seed.
- ☞ Fruit trees, Mulberry, Chokecherry.
- ☞ Garden vegetables, composting, food scraps.

## Points of Entry

- ☞ Rats need only a 1/2 inch opening to enter a home or other structure.
- ☞ Open or damaged windows and doors.
- ☞ Openings around pipes or wires not sealed to the wall.
- ☞ Dryer vents
- ☞ Defective grills to crawl spaces
- ☞ Spaces between foundation and floor
- ☞ Any homes in wall above or below grade
- ☞ Sewer lines

## Rat Harborage

- ☞ Close to food sources
- ☞ Poorly maintained garbage areas
- ☞ High weeds, ground covers
- ☞ Patios, decks, sidewalks, fences
- ☞ Cellars, Crawl spaces, false ceilings
- ☞ Compost bins, sheds, dog houses
- ☞ Woodpiles, debris piles
- ☞ Garages, storage rooms, kitchen cabinets



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