

As rats can be carriers of disease, ingesting food or water that has been contaminated by rat urine or droppings may pose risks to human health.

OPH provides education to those experiencing rodent issues in their home. If you are experiencing a rat infestation and require professional services, you may wish to contact a licensed pest control company.

Since rats can damage your property, look for the following signs of rodent activity:

- Live sightings
- Rodent droppings
- Chewed or damaged items
- Small holes or burrows in the ground outside of the residence



There are steps you can take to prevent rats on your property.

Step 1



Eliminate food and water sources

- Maintain composters to prevent rodents from entering
- Secure garbage (both indoor and outdoor) in rodent proof containers with tight fitting lids
- Remove pet food right after feeding and clean waste from pet enclosures
- Eliminate water sources such as, but not limited to, leaky faucets, bird baths and standing water
- Keep areas around bird feeders and birdbaths clean. Remove bird feeders during a rodent infestation

Step 2



Eliminate hiding and living places

- Cut tall grass and weeds back from the home's foundation
- Remove clutter from around the home, garage and inside the shed
- Lift wood piles on stands 30 cm (12 inches) off the ground and away from the home

Step 3



Protect buildings:

- Repair cracks in the home's foundation
- Use metal weathering stripping under exterior doors
- Cover dryer, fresh air and attic vents with fine metal screening