

Rats are large, stocky rodents with an average weight of about one (1) pound, small eyes and ears, grayish to dark brown fur, and naked tails.

If there are large numbers of rats they could be heard in the walls and attics or observed during daylight hours.

Signs of rats may include:

- Droppings, which are approximately 1/2 inch long and 1/4 inch in diameter.
- Burrows or runs
- Grease or smudge marks on walls, pipes, or structures
- Gnaw or chew marks on doors, in corners, or at points of access into buildings.



Middlesex County
Office of Health Services
Inspection Division

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New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901
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Middlesex County
Board of Chosen Freeholders
Ronald G. Rios, *Freeholder Director*
Blanquita B. Valenti, *Deputy Director*

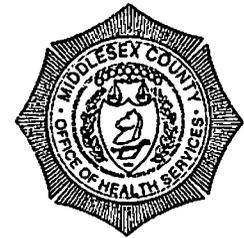
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April 2009

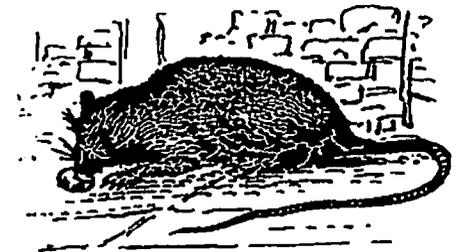
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Rodents

**Controlling and
Eliminating
Infestations**



Middlesex County
Office of Health Services



Lester Jones
Director-Health Officer

H. James Polos
Freeholder
Chairperson, Public Safety
and Health Committee

Inspection Division

In this pamphlet are some guidelines which you may implement to help eliminate rodents that may already be present on your property and to help prevent any future infestations.

You may inspect for rodents by looking for burrows and droppings.

BURROWS: Look for holes and fresh digging around foundations, under floors, sidewalks, platforms, sheds, wood piles, and embankments.

DROPPINGS: Fresh droppings are a sure sign of rodents. Look behind objects, sheds, near walls and in places seldom cleaned or disturbed.

TO KEEP RODENTS AWAY

THERE ARE FOUR (4)

ESSENTIAL RULES TO FOLLOW:

1. Remove their food and water.
2. Remove their shelter.
3. Build them out.
4. Exterminate.

REMOVE THEIR FOOD AND WATER SOURCES

- Keep garbage and refuse in tightly covered metal or heavy plastic containers; rinse out recyclable cans and bottles to remove food particles.
- Feed and water pets indoors.
- Keep property clear of dog droppings and keep pet areas clean.
- Keep property clear of fallen crab apples and other fruits from your trees.
- Clear gardens of rotten vegetables and plants.
- Do not allow stagnant pools of water to sit; repair leaky hoses and outdoor water pipes.
- Keep wild bird seed well above the ground. Promptly clean any seeds that fall to the ground.
- Discard old tires as rainwater may collect in them.

REMOVE THEIR SHELTER

- Do not stack lumber, logs, or metal on the ground, put them on racks or blocks at least twelve (12) inches above ground level.
- Keep grass and weeds cut low.
- Storage sheds and doghouses should be raised off the ground on concrete platforms to prevent rodents from burrowing beneath.
- Abandoned cars are an invitation for rats to nest—remove them.
- Clear debris from attics, cellars, storerooms, garages, and other places.

BUILD THEM OUT

- Keep doors closed when not in use.
- Cover all edges subject to gnawing with sheet metal or hardware cloth.
- Close unnecessary openings with concrete or metal.
- Keep floor drains tightly fastened to stop entry from sewers.

EXTERMINATE

- If rodents are discovered on your property they must be exterminated, preferably by a licensed professional exterminator.

Rodent surveys are conducted upon request. If you see rodents on your property or know of any problems in your community, please call your local Health Department Office.

732 356-7400 x252

