

Rodent Control Fact Sheet

There are many reasons why rodents are not wanted in our neighborhoods. Rodents are carriers of diseases that can be transmitted in various ways to humans. They contaminate our food supply through their urine and droppings, and in some cases damage personal property which may necessitate costly repairs.

The rodent generally found in this part of the county is the Norway rat, which is either dark brown or gray in color, weighs approximately (1) pound, and is 16-18 inches long. The life span of this rodent is 1 to 2 years and the female reproduces 5 to 10 litters with the average litter being 8 to 10 young. They are capable climbers and can swim, if forced to, in search of food. The Norway rat is a burrowing animal and generally nocturnal in nature, but migration can and does occur during daytime on occasion.

Rodents are basically dependent upon humans for their survival and ways of living. They need the basic elements for survival; food and shelter, which both are provided by humans. Rodent problems can be greatly reduced and hopefully eliminated, if each resident abides by these helpful tips:

- Place trash and garbage in metal trash containers. Plastic containers can be used; however, they are more vulnerable, as rodents may gnaw holes through these containers. Make sure containers are secured with tight fitting lids.
- Keep grass/weeds cut. High grass and weeds afford shelter for rodents.
- Elevate all wood piles at least 18 inches off the ground to prevent rodents from burrowing under piles.
- Do not accumulate unnecessary junk and debris in the yard which can afford shelter for rodents.
- Discontinue feeding the birds as bird feeders are a major source of food for rodents, especially during the winter months. If bird feeders are used, great care must be exhibited daily to clean the area under the feeders.
- Clean up dog droppings in the yard daily.
- Clean up fruit which falls from trees on a daily basis.
- Gardens unfortunately attract rodents, be sure to clean up any rotten or excess garden food at the end of the season.
- Pens and hutches for rabbits, chickens, etc., must be kept clean. Clean up any excess food on the ground under the pen on a daily basis.

Questions please contact
Haverford Township Health Department
610-446-1000 ext 2501 or nguerra@havtwp.org