

No one wants to live with rats. The City of Somerville takes rodent control seriously and has many programs and initiatives in place to curb rodent activity.

But we need your help. This guide offers tips for preventing rodent activity on your own property and in your neighborhood.

MORE INFORMATION

Questions about the Residential Rodent Control Assistance Program or looking for additional tips for rodent activity prevention? Visit: SomervilleMA.gov/RodentControl

REPORT RODENT SIGHTINGS TO 311
617-666-3311 from a mobile phone or from outside Somerville or email 311Updates@SomervilleMA.gov



DOWNLOAD THE SOMERVILLE 311 APP

PREVENTING RODENT ACTIVITY ON YOUR PROPERTY



1. LOOK FOR EVIDENCE



- Burrow holes
- Droppings (likely near garbage)
- Holes or gnaw marks



Rats need only 1 oz. of food per day to survive.

Rats come out at night. Use a flashlight to see where they're going then check for burrows in that area in the daytime.

2. CLEAN UP

- Remove droppings and clean area. Rats use scent to communicate.
- Pet waste should be cleaned up.
- Get rid of clutter like piles of wood, newspapers, etc.
- Don't store items against walls or on the ground.
- Control the growth of weeds and bushes.



Rats can squeeze through cracks and holes as small as a 1/2 inch.

Work with neighbors to clean up properties together so that the rats have nowhere to go.

3. STARVE THEM

- **Manage Trash:** Bring trash barrels to curb as close to pickup time as possible. Contact DPW to purchase a new barrel if yours is damaged and to avoid a fine.
- **Remove Food Sources:** Don't leave out pet food or water bowls. Bird seed should be in bird feeders only and stored in tightly sealed containers. Compost bins should be raised off the ground and be rodent resistant. (These can be purchased from DPW).

4. SHUT THEM OUT

- Seal cracks and small holes with caulk or sealant.
- Fill burrows in the ground with tightly packed soil.
- Close door gaps with door sweeps.
- Put screens on vents and replace or repair damaged screens.
- Cover large holes with metal lathes and seal with mortar or cement.



Extermination is a job best left to licensed pest control professionals (always ask to see their MA State License).

5. WIPE THEM OUT

- Hire a licensed exterminator or set traps safely yourself (tips & safety info are available at www.EPA.gov/rodenticides).
- Contact 311 to find out if you're eligible for the City's Residential Rodent Control Assistance Program.
- Report rodent sightings to 311 so we can undertake control efforts on public property and track rodent activity.

