

Rats: Prevention Tips



When rats move inside a business, they can create problems that put your reputation on the line. Their presence can pose potential health and food safety threats, which could result in public health or regulatory action. They can also cause costly damage to equipment and structures. Help prevent these costly disruptions with these tips from our experts.

Where you might see them

- Roof rats are excellent climbers. They can be found in upper levels of buildings, ceilings, trees, vegetation, or on rooftops.
- Norway rats like to burrow. They prefer lower levels and areas that are typically unoccupied.
- Seal holes and potential pest-entry points on the exterior with rodent-proof materials, such as hardware cloth or concrete. Pay particular attention to any openings around pipes, plumbing, and electrical wiring.
- Place ¼-inch wire mesh screens over all exterior ventilation openings.
- Inspect roof and seal any gaps or openings around HVAC units.
- Remove standing water. Clear gutters so they are free flowing. Repair leaks, both inside and out. Don't forget to inspect your roof!
- Keep trash cans and dumpsters closed and away from the building.
- Remove and reduce clutter both inside and outside the facility.

What you can do to help

- Report any sightings or signs such as droppings, rub/grease marks, or gnawing to your pest management provider immediately.

Tips for prevention

- Develop and maintain an inspection process for incoming goods.
- Install door sweeps on all exterior doors.



ID and biology

- **Roof rat:** 13-18 inches long (from nose to tip of tail); dark gray to black; tail is longer than its head and body combined; pointed nose; large eyes; and large, nearly hairless ears.
- **Norway rat:** Brownish-black; 13-18 inches long (from nose to tip of tail); tail is shorter than its body length; small eyes; and small, hairy ears.
- Female rats can produce up to 7 litters/year with 5-12 pups.
- Rats will leave greasy marks along surfaces they repeatedly rub against. If you suspect a rat problem, notify your pest management provider immediately.

Call 352.646.2902 for a FREE consultation
or contact us online at flapest.com

