

RODENT CONTROL IS A COMMUNITY-WIDE ISSUE THAT REQUIRES YOUR SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION

Many towns in Bergen County, especially those near rivers, streams and creeks have seen increases in rodent populations over time. While your Health Department and DPW employ some strategies to help control rodents, your participation is needed to keep them out of your neighborhood.

Why am I seeing more rodents, especially RATS!

Rats and mice are wildlife and have been in this area at least as long as humans have been here. Research suggests that some things may be increasing their activity.

- Milder winters
- Aging infrastructure and increased development
- Improper trash and waste management practices

What is New Milford doing to combat rodent activity?

The Health Dept responds to reports of rodents and provides residents and businesses with information on preventing rodent attraction. Routine inspection of all food establishments includes checking for conditions that may attract or provide harborage for rodents and insects.

Rodents are simple- they spend their days looking for water and food and will tend to find a place to nest nearby. There are several things that will attract rodents to your property. These include:

- **Improperly stored trash and recycling**
 - Garbage /Trash must always be stored in receptacles with tight fitting lids.
 - Receptacles should be large enough to hold ALL trash and recyclables generated between pick-ups.
 - Put all Garbage /Trash into secure plastic bags prior to placing it into a receptacle.
 - Recyclables must be cleaned before placing them into a recycling receptacle.
 - Large “dumpsters” for garbage and recycling must not be over-filled - If you observe this, contact the building manager or proprietor.
- Poorly maintained bird feeders. Bird seed that accumulates on the ground will attract rodents.
- Improperly maintained compost bins will attract rodents.
- Standing water, including clogged gutters, empty pools, poorly fitting pool covers, empty planters, abandoned tires may attract rodents and will also provide a mosquito breeding ground
- Wood piles, and excessively cluttered sheds and garages may provide an attractive nesting spot for rodents
- Overgrown vegetation may provide harborage conditions
- **Pet waste** that is not promptly picked up from your yard will attract rodents - rats eat everything and if food is in short supply, they even scavenge undigested food from animal waste.

What are some signs of RAT Activity?

- **Burrows:** Clusters of 2 or more smooth holes that are 2-4 inches in diameter
- **Droppings:** Rat droppings are about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long, sausage shaped with tapered ends
- **Rodent runways:** Occasionally rats will leave a worn-down path in the soil created by repeated travel around building foundations, fences, and sheds.

Remember that Rodent control begins with sanitation. While rodents may find warmth and shelter inside structures like a shed or garage its FOOD and WATER that are the reason they choose to live in or around a structure. If you suspect rodents, take the following steps:

- **Sanitation:** Remove all attractants including food, water, and harborage (shelter) areas from your property.
- **Exclusion:** Inspect your foundations to ensure they are free of holes, cracks and other rodent entry points. Seal cracks and openings.
- **Elimination:** Hire a licensed Pest Control Operator to treat your property. Pest Control Operators should take an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to reduce rodent populations safely and effectively.