



Fight Rats One Yard at a Time



You can eliminate a rat's source of food and water:

- Store garbage in cans with tight fitting lids.
- Remove uneaten pet food and store food in rat proof containers.
- Clean up pet droppings on and around your property daily.



- Use rat proof bird feeders and clean up any fallen seed daily.
- Do not place food for squirrels, birds and ducks or any other wildlife on the ground.
- Remove sources of water.

You can eliminate a rat's shelter and harborage:

- Keep yards trash free and clean areas behind wooden steps, under decks or any other sites that may provide shelter.
- Cut down high grass and weeds.
- Pile wood and other storage materials away from walls and at least 18 inches above the ground.
- Make sure windows and doors close tightly and place heavy screening on all basement windows.
- Seal any exterior holes in your home's foundation and walls.
- Fasten floor drains to keep rats from entering through sewers.



Remember, if you eliminate a rat's food, water and shelter, you will eliminate the root of the problem.

**Erie County Health Department
Vector Control Program**