

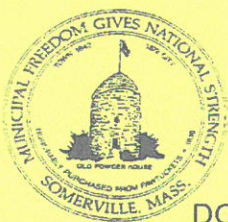
HELP KEEP RODENTS AT BAY IN SOMERVILLE

DENY RODENTS FOOD, WATER, AND SHELTER

- Place garbage in City-issued uniform trash carts, making sure lids close tightly.
- Don't put trash to the curb before 4 p.m. the day before trash day.
- Clean the trash cart (and extra trash barrels) when necessary.
- Dog and other pet waste is a reliable food supply for rodents. Remove it daily.
- Don't leave out pet food.
- Clean food remains from floors and the ground outside.
- Rodents can't survive without water. Repair pipe and hose leaks swiftly.
- Put bird food in feeders only, and keep the ground below them clean.
- Compost properly and keep the compost lid on tight.
- Keep grass trimmed, remove yard debris, and prune shrubbery so that the ground is visible.

LOOK FOR TELLTALE SIGNS OF RODENT ACTIVITY

- Holes 1-4 inches wide in dirt or paving may be burrows leading to rat nests.
- Gnaw marks or moist, dark droppings are often seen near garbage.
- Rats run in straight lines, leaving greasy marks on walls and worn-down paths in grass along fences and foundations.
- Rats are 6-8 inches long with thick, often hairless tails and ears proportionately sized to their heads; mice are 2-4 inches long with narrower tails & large ears.



CALL 311 OR 617-666-3311 FROM CELL PHONES

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CONTACT 311 IF YOU SUSPECT RODENTS

- The City tracks all rodent calls to determine hotspots of activity.
- The Inspectional Services Health Division responds to all reports of rodent sightings. They inspect for rodent activity and issue citations for health code violations such as exposed trash.

THE CITY OF SOMERVILLE OFFERS RESIDENTIAL RODENT CONTROL ASSISTANCE

- Owner-occupants of properties of 3 or fewer units are eligible for free extermination services if rodent activity is confirmed.
- In exchange for the qualifying homeowner agreeing to take rodent prevention action, the City will pay for services including dusting, baiting, and trapping.
- Services will be provided first to those with a financial hardship, veterans, the elderly, disabled persons, and then to additional households.

THE CITY OF SOMERVILLE TAKES MANY STEPS TO CONTROL RODENTS

- Enforcement of household trash disposal rules.
- Licensing and regular inspection of dumpsters.
- Regular inspections at food-serving establishments.
- Investigation & targeted response to every 311 rodent complaint including City baiting and orders to private property owners to take eradication measures.
- Enforcement of health code violations.
- Enforcement of baiting requirements for construction sites.



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