

Rodents are an unavoidable part of life in any city.

The City of Cambridge is committed to confronting this problem by:

1. Addressing rodent problems on public property
2. Working to control rodents during construction projects
3. Enforcing sanitary codes and ordinances
4. Educating the public

By working together, we can make Cambridge as free from rodents as possible.

If you see:

- Rats on public property, in parks, in streets, in drains, in commercial or residential establishments;
- Rubbish disposal in violation of City ordinance;
- Rats you think might be related to roadway renovations, demolition or excavation on a construction site; please contact:

Rodent reporting line **617.349.4899** or email rodents@cambridgema.gov.

Please give detailed information about what you saw: the address, exact location (front yard, alley, drain, etc.) and time of day. This will help us conduct the most effective investigation possible.

Together, we can control rodents in Cambridge!



Rodent Control

Visit www.cambridgema.gov/theworks for more info including:

- Strategies for property managers
- Using dumpsters to prevent rodent problems
- Landscaping for rodent control
- The changing seasons: factors in rodent control
- Rat myths & facts


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■ A Guide for Cambridge
Property Owners and Residents

**Inside:
What you can do...**

City of Cambridge
Cambridge, MA 02139
www.cambridgema.gov



Rodent control programs are only effective if everyone takes responsibility for keeping their homes and businesses as rodent-proof as possible.

Please help us by doing the following:

10 Tips on Rodent Control

1. Store garbage in metal or heavy plastic containers with tight lids.
2. Place trash outside shortly before pickup; don't leave plastic garbage bags outside overnight.
3. Remove weeds and debris near buildings and in yards; don't give rats a place to hide.
4. Store opened food in metal or glass containers with tight lids.
5. Don't leave extra pet food out; store it in a secure container.
6. Sweep up food remains, litter, and trash, inside and outside your home.
7. Inspect your basement and house for cracks and holes; seal them with mortar.
8. Make sure you have screens on windows; inspect windows and screens for holes.
9. Keep outside doors closed; use metal trim to prevent rodents from gnawing and entering underneath.
10. Don't provide hiding places for rodents; store materials such as lumber and boxes on a rack with a clean, open area underneath. Get rid of unused material.

Be smart about trash:

1. Trash placed at the curb the night before collection must be in rodent-resistant barrels with tight-fitting lids, **no earlier than 6pm.**
2. Trash in plastic bags can only be placed at the curb on the day of collection, **no later than 7am.**

Remember:

- Only heavy-duty plastic bags are accepted. No kitchen, grocery and other thin bags.
- Use lids when storing trash and inspect receptacles regularly for holes.
- Clean trash storage areas regularly to avoid exposed garbage.

Keep your garden and composter free from rodents:

1. Pick up fallen fruit or garden vegetables.
2. Cover up food in your composter with leaves, paper towels, or other "brown" carbon materials. No meat, bones, fat, dairy or oily cooked foods.
3. Keep your composter 1.5 feet from any wall and the area round it free from weeds or tall grass.
4. Keep your composter moist and active. Shut the lid tight.
5. Pick up a free piece of 1/2-inch wire mesh from DPW to place underneath your composter to prevent burrowing.
6. Put bird food in feeders only and don't overfeed. Store seeds in containers with tight lids.



Rats & Construction

Rodents are generally not disturbed by routine road and sidewalk work, but by construction involving extensive demolition or excavation.

The City requires that a rodent control protocol be established prior to approval of demolition and building permits involving excavation. All Public Works contracts dealing with excavation or underground utilities include rodent control in their specifications.

Rats usually stay close to home; they typically go just far enough to find food and shelter. By working to eliminate rodents in an area before construction begins, Cambridge works to prevent the spread of rodents to other neighborhoods.

The rodent control program is only effective if everyone takes responsibility for keeping their homes and businesses as rodent-proof as possible. Please help us by doing the following.

Any time you see a rat please call or email us. This will help us track all sightings throughout the city, and keep us aware of above-average levels of rats in specific locations.

**Contact us at
rodents@cambridgema.gov
or 617.349.4899**

