

## MICE & RAT

### Do mice grow up to be rats?

No! Mice and rats are separate species of rodents.

### How do young rats differ from mice?

The head and feet of a young rat are large in proportion to its body whereas the head and feet of a mouse are small.



Young rat (above): Large head and feet



House mouse (above): Small head and feet

Michigan Department of Agriculture  
Pesticide & Plant Pest Management Division  
PO Box 30017  
Lansing, MI 48909



## CLEAN OUT THE BASEMENT, ATTIC, GARAGE AND YARD

DON'T give rats a place to raise their families.  
Get rid of food, shelter and water necessary for survival of rodents.

Environmental sanitation is the first and foremost requirement for rodent control.


A Publication of the City of Warren  
Communications Department

## Win the War Against Rats!



## How You Can Control The Rat Problem In Your Neighborhood!

Valuable  
Tips Inside ...



Call the City of Warren  
Property Maintenance Hotline  
To Report Rat Problems

586-574-4662

24 hours, 7 days a week

## Garbage is Rat Food



**Don't Give Rats a Free Meal**  
Keep Garbage in the Can

- Use plastic bags as liner.
- Cover can tightly. Tight lids also keep animals and wind from spreading rubbish from cans.
- Drained, wrapped garbage will reduce odors and flies will not have a place to breed.
- Place rubbish out before 6:00 a.m. on scheduled pick-up days. Plastic bags (liners) may be set out for collection.
- Ideally, garbage cans should be stored in racks that are elevated off the ground.

**Don't Attract Rats!**  
Use Garbage Can Lids!



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NOT THIS



## Rat Dangers

- Rats are carriers of many diseases.
- Rats bite people.
- Rats contaminate food.
- Rats destroy property.

## Waging War on Rats



Uneaten dog or cat food should be removed at once after pet is fed.



Elevate all firewood a minimum of **12** inches and preferably **18** inches off the ground. Do not place it near or against walls.



Bird food should be placed on raised platforms.



## Rat Warning Signs

**Burrows** - Rats live in nests made in burrows in the ground. Look for holes or fresh diggings under concrete slabs, near garbage storage areas, along earth banks, near brush piles, and near similar places that provide harborage.

**Droppings** - Look for black shiny capsule-shaped droppings with blunt ends, Norway rat droppings are approximately 3/4 inch long.

**Runways** - Outdoors - Look for narrow beaten paths of earth free of debris. Indoors - look for greasy smear marks along walls, steps and runways where rats travel.

**Gnaw marks** - Look for distinct teeth marks and light-colored wood chips for fresh gnaw marks. Rats like to gnaw on door ledges, corners, stored materials, etc.

*Source: Michigan Department of Agriculture*

## Prevention

Rats need three things to survive: **Food, Water and Shelter.**

**Food** - Keep trash cans tightly covered, and don't let rats feast on pet food.

**Water** - Repair leaking pipes, and don't let rainwater collect in containers.

**Shelter** - Clean up debris like abandoned cars, cut high weeds, store lumber at least 12 inches from the ground, and seal off openings in foundations, retaining walls, and basements.