

ACES Factsheet: **DIY RAT CONTROL**



WHAT IS A RAT?

Rats are small mammals from the order Rodentia.

Rats are intelligent and are the only rodent to suffer from NEOPHOBIA. NEO= new, PHOBIA= fear. They are scared of the new. They believe that you are trying to kill them and don't trust any change you make to their surroundings.

Roof rats. Also known as the ship rats or black rats. Shy and slender rat with its tail longer than its body. Excellent climber and confident jumper. You will find roof rats in your ceiling, under your house and in walls. They are scared of you and rarely come into your living areas. Small to medium poos with pointed ends.

Sewer rats. Also called Norway rats, Brown rat and River rat. Larger rat, square face, with a tail shorter than its body. The miner of the rodents. They are gregarious by nature so they don't meeting you. Commonly they appear from under the kitchen. Mostly in houses where the house is built into a bank. Poor climber rarely found in ceiling spaces. Large poos with rounded ends.

HOW DO I KNOW ITS RATS?

Here are some ways to work out if you have rats.

- Noises. 8-11pm. At this time are rats getting ready to go out in search of food
- Noises. 2-4am. Returning to their nests

- Strong smell. When in high numbers rats can produce a smell of urine.
- Rat dirt: Colour and consistency can tell when the rats were there.
- Flood. Rats chew plastic piping causing floods.
- Chewing. Rats chew hard surfaces. It sounds like a constant grinding noise.

DIY RAT EXTERMINATION*

For a successful outcome please consider:

1. Inspection.* Inspect areas rats have been seen or heard. Example under house or in ceiling space. Where the rats go, you need to go too. You need to get up close and personal with your rats.
2. Look for signs of rat activity such as rat dirt, smear marks, gnaw marks, rodent hairs and nests.
3. Establish three key areas that rats trust, access points, trails and nests
4. Apply controls to three key areas.†
5. Allow 3-7 days for rats to accept your controls
6. Monitor progress, maintain as needed e.g. clear rats from traps or replace consumed bait.

CONTROLS

There are two types of controls. Use gloves when handling controls so not put your scent on them.

1. SNAP TRAPS. After seven days set traps and monitor.†

2. BAIT.** Correctly placed professional grade baits will pest control the rodents and drive them out of your dwelling to seek water. Secure bait so rats can not move it. Seek professional grade bait.†

*Wear protective clothing when dealing with rats, e.g. gloves and knee pads.

**Bait is NON specific and kills anything with blood.

† Exclude NON target animals from controls. e.g. birds

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