



VILLAGE OF BRIDGEVIEW

# RODENT CONTROL



**WHAT YOU NEED  
TO KNOW!**

**WHAT YOU NEED  
TO DO!**

**TARGET: RATS HOTLINE**  
**(708) 594-2525**

# CLEAN YOUR PROPERTY!

- Get Rid of Rodents
- Keep Your Neighborhood Safe for Children and Pets
- Increase Your Property Value
- Keep Bridgeview a Great Place to Live!

***JOIN US!***



More Information  
on next page

## FACTS ABOUT RATS



The species of rat found in Bridgeview is the Norway rat. The name is rather misleading as this species originated in Asia centuries ago.

The rat has an average life span of two to twelve months. Beginning at the age of two to three months, a female rat can produce four to seven litters per year with each litter containing eight to twelve pups. Females can become impregnated within 48 hours after giving birth. The number, size and survivability of litters produced depends upon the amount of food and shelter available.

They prefer fresh food, but will eat many things such as pet food, pet droppings (a rat favorite), garbage and plants. If food is scarce, the strongest rats may even eat the weakest, sick, very young or very old rats.

Norway rats prefer to live in burrows in the ground. They are excellent climbers and swimmers and most active at night. They have very hard teeth and can chew through wood and plaster or any other material that is softer than their teeth. They can crawl through holes the size of a quart; tread water for three days and land unharmed after a five-story fall.

Norway rats live in colonies that have very well defined territories. The strongest colonies get the best places to live. They sometimes feed in the stronger rats' territory during daylight when those rats are sleeping. Rats caught in another colony's area will be driven out or killed.

The risk of disease being spread from rats to humans is very real. By their very nature, rats carry a variety of potentially infected fleas and ticks which may be passed on to people. In rare occurrences, especially when cornered, rats can bite humans or pets. But the most common method of spreading illness comes from rats' tendency to pass water and solid waste as they cross food and food preparation surfaces. That is the reason the Mayor's Task Force is so diligent and aggressive in enforcing sanitation codes.

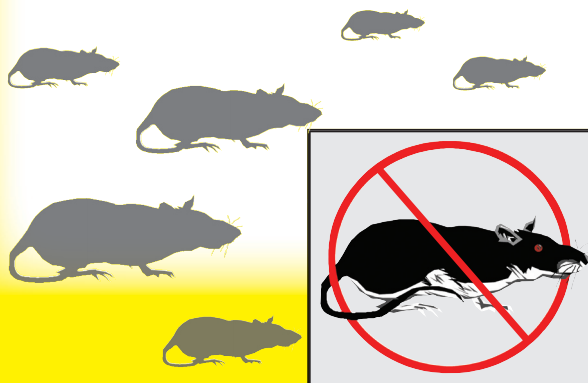
## WAGING WAR AGAINST RATS

### HOW YOU CAN RAT-PROOF YOUR PROPERTY



#### STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS

- Rid outdoor areas of old lumber, brick piles, junk autos, old equipment or any other debris that potentially shelters rats.
- If you need to store any of the above materials, place them at least 18 inches above ground (or floor) level and at least one foot away from any wall or fence.
- Look for holes in pavement, ground or walls.
- For larger openings, it may be necessary to first cover the open area with hardware cloth and then solidify the opening with fresh concrete or blacktop as needed.
- Give careful attention to the exterior doors, making sure any opening between the door and floor is too small for rats and mice to enter (less than 3/8").
- Close any such openings by inserting a ball of chicken wire and/or hardware cloth into the holes so tightly it cannot easily be removed; then cement over the opening with fresh concrete mix.
- For larger easement openings which often house air conditioners or other exterior equipment, a tightly sealed metal locked door with a concrete threshold at each end will deny rats access to this space.
- If you feed the birds, **seeds must be in a bird feeder off the ground.** All fallen seed must be removed each evening. **Do NOT throw bread or other scraps of food** out for birds or animals. This includes empty lots, public places and residential areas. **Do NOT leave pet food outside.**
- **Pick up all pet droppings.** Pet waste is a favorite rat food.
- Mayor Landek and the Village of Bridgeview are serious about keeping Bridgeview rat free. Working together we will achieve our goal!



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