HOW YOU CAN RAT-PROOF YOUR PROPERTY

ORGANIZE WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

Encourage everyone on your block to join together against rats. You can get additional copies of this brochure by calling 311 or online at www.cityofchicago.org/streetsandsan.

FIND AND CORRECT THE GARBAGE PROBLEMS

Eliminate rodent breeding places and sources of food from your block. Some of the more common examples include:

- Garbage carts, cans or bins so full that the lids won't close or damaged or missing lids
- Plastic bags of garbage not in a cart or bin
- Dog feces left for more than a day
- Fruits and vegetables left rotting in gardens
- Overfilled outside pet food dishes and bird feeders
- Junk, old cars, tires, lumber and debris that offer hiding places for rats
- Overgrown weeds

Even one yard with a food source or hiding place can cause rat problems for the entire block. If one or more of the households on your block will not cooperate, call 311 and ask the Department of Streets and Sanitation to send an inspector into your neighborhood to enforce the City's Sanitation Code.

RAT-PROOF TIPS

- 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 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 three eighths of an inch).
- Loading docks can become harborage when the steel corner plates are loose enough for rodents to squeeze behind them; the hardware cloth method can deny them further entry.
- Any opening should be sealed with hardware cloth so tightly it cannot easily be removed; then cement over the opening with fresh concrete mix.
- Another common rat harborage area is the small easement space between two adjoining buildings that runs between the street and the alley. Often this space is too narrow for a person to walk through, making it more secure for rats to set up housekeeping. Both property owners should work together to anchor a strip of sheet metal connecting the property walls from ground level to a height of at least ten feet. This metal can be pre-colored, particularly on the street side, to complement the appearance of the buildings.
- 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.

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City of Chicago

Rodent Control

What YOU need to Know
What YOU need to DO

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Department of Streets and Sanitation

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot