Rodent Prevention Tips

- Keep unit clean.
- Seal all holes around pipes, heating ducts and under cabinets.
- Clean all hidden areas under stoves and refrigerators on a regular basis.
- Keep yard clean, cut grass.
- Store garbage in metal or heavy plastic containers with tight fitting lids.
- Remove weeds and debris near buildings and in yards.
- Do not leave pet food outside.
- Hire a licensed, insured pest control company familiar with IPM (Integrated Pest Management) techniques.
- Keep grass and shrubbery well trimmed.
- Place bird food in a feeder, not on the ground, clean up spillage daily.
- Clean up animal waste frequently!
- Be sure to seal any openings to the house, even above ground level.
- Repair any breaks in the sewer line connecting your home with the main sewer system.

Did You know?

The Norway Rat (Rattus Norvegicus) is the most common rat in the North East Region.

These rats are heavy set, light brown to almost black.

Their droppings are capsule shaped, about three quarters of an inch long.

Rats generally live for one year at which time they can have six to twelve “pups” per litter, up to seven times a year.

Rats burrow in the ground, under buildings and rubbish; usually living well within 150 feet of food and water source.

Rats require roughly one ounce of food a day and a half ounce of water. They feed habitually on familiar food, preferring meats and grains, and are cautious of new items or new food.

Rats can jump up to three feet and climb wires and pipe very well. Keep doors and windows screened with half-inch mesh hardware cloth.

Boston Inspectional Services
Environmental Services Division

1010 Massachusetts Avenue, 4th Floor
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Environmental Services Division

PEST MANAGEMENT BROCHURE

Nationally Recognized Leader in Addressing Rodent Control in Urban Environment

Mayor
Thomas M. Menino
City of Boston

The City of Boston Environmental Division Operates on Five Basic Principals:

- **P**ublic Education,
- **I**mprove Sanitation Practices,
- **P**roactive Prevention
- **R**apid Response
- **E**nforcement

This Method Incorporates Education, Enforcement, Clean-up and Rodenticides.

Functions of Environmental Services Division are:

- **R**apidly respond to rodent and trash complaints
- **E**mergency trapping and rodent baiting,
- Monitors and treats rodent activity on city property,
- **R**eview construction plans and rodent control specifications.
- **I**nspect and monitor all permitted construction sites in the city of Boston for rodent activity,
- **E**nforce the State Sanitary Code
- **S**ite Cleanliness Enforcement

Documenting Rodent Sightings

Upon receiving a complaint a Health Inspector will conduct a full comprehensive inspection of the property and affected area. During this walkthrough the inspector will attempt to identify the food source and the exact area of infestation and activity.

What are Rodenticides?
Rodenticides are baiting mechanisms used to kill rats, mice and any other rodents. These pesticides come in different variations such as:

Liquid, pellets, dust and blocks of which can only be purchased by a licensed pest control operator.

Where are Rodenticides Placed?
Most rodenticides are placed sub surface, particularly where heavy activity occurs such as: rodent burrows, sewer systems, construction sites, public alleys, and covered securely.

Trappings
Trappings are done all year round particularly during the change of seasons known as "breeding seasons."

Traps are typically placed on public properties such as: parks, public streets and alleys.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
An IPM program utilizes all suitable control methods to keep pests populations below the economic injury level. Methods include cultural practices, use of biological, physical and genetic controlled agents and the selective use of pesticides.

Construction Sites
In accordance with Massachusetts Building Code, section 108.6; Massachusetts State Sanitary Code, Ch. 1, 105 CMR400.100 and Ch. II, 105CMR 410.550 and the City of Boston Code, Ordinance Chapter 16-Section 31 and Ch. 9, Section 1.2, it is established that the control or rodent infestation is a precondition for the issuance of a building permit to do work.

City of Boston Code Ordinance
16-31 Rodent Inspection Prevention Measures at Construction Site state:

No building permit shall be issued for renovation, conversion, or new construction until the applicant shows evidence that the premises have been treated for, or are free from insects and rodents in compliance with all applicable codes. The contractor/applicant shall be held responsible for corrective measures should the construction, renovation or conversion work cause infestation to immediate abutters.

Violations
If infestation or activity is found, abatement notices will be written and served upon the property owner/manager. A compliance inspection will be conducted within 7-10 business days after the initial inspection.

Hearings
If the violation (s) is not corrected a notice to appear at an Administrative Hearing will be served upon the owner or manager of the property.

Hearings are conducted by a Hearing Officer at which time the Inspector will give testimony as to the conditions of the property, the violations cited and the date and time of the re-inspection.

The property owner/manager will also be given a chance to give testimony to the conditions of the property, what has been or will be done to bring the property up to code. The Hearing Officer will take all testimony into consideration and render his/her decision within 7-10 business days. All hearings are held at 1010 Massachusetts Avenue.
4th Floor Conference Room, Boston, MA.