



Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland

Office of Development Services

Dear Residents,

Thank you for your investment in our Town. Rodent infestation can negatively impact property maintenance and public health in the community. Please read the following information to aid the efforts in controlling this issue.

Signs of Rodent Infestation:

➤ **Scratching Noises**

- In the walls, could be a sign of black rats.
- Under the floorboards, could be a sign of brown rats.

➤ **Droppings**

- Tapered, brown, rice grain shapes, 8-15 mm in length.
- Usually clustered together.

➤ **Burrows**

- Large craters in the ground, 2-6 inches in length, usually clustered around other burrows. Burrows can be a complex system of tunnels, going 1-3 feet below the surface.

➤ **Footprints/ Trails**

- Rats are creatures of habit. They tend to live near food sources and follow the same paths, as they leave footprints and trails of food linked to the source.

➤ **Damage**

- Rats are notorious for chewing through electrical wiring. Any power outages, or shortages may be attributed to an infestation.

➤ **Foul Odor**

- Upon entering a new area, rats will produce an odor that can be unfamiliar. This could be from the rat(s) or from a nest that is hidden from plain sight.



Black Rat

Typical Norway Rat:

- Color: Brown with black hairs, gray/white underbelly
- Length: Less than a foot
- Lifespan: Less than one year
- Pregnancy Period: 21-22 days
- Reproduction: 6-14 offspring



Brown Rat

Town Hall • 5008 Queensbury Road • Riverdale Park • Maryland 20737

www.RiverdaleParkMD.gov

Telephone - 301.927.6381

How to Prevent Rodent Infestation:

In your home...

- Keep areas clean and free of unnecessary clutter.
- Properly store food and avoid leaving dirty dishes overnight in the sink or in other places.
- Vacuum and/or pickup any scraps of food on the floor.
- Dispose of trash in a proper and timely manner. Do not let odors form and attract rodents.
- Contact a licensed exterminator / professional about evidence or signs of infestation in your home.



In your apartment complex (Tenants)...

- Contact the landlord / property manager about any building maintenance issues that could allow an infestation in the building.
- Dispose of any trash, debris, and/or other rubbish inside of the dumpsters. **Avoid leaving anything outside of the dumpster areas** for this will attract infestations quickly. If you have bulk trash, speak with your property manager/ landlord about disposal
- Immediately report any sightings of an infestation or burrows to property manager and/or landlord.



In our Town...

- **Don't litter.** Rodents follow food sources.
- Report any sightings of trash dumping or rat burrows to Town Hall.
- If you see something, say something.



As a reminder...

Properly dispose of garbage and trash bags. Removing a food source is a major part of controlling rodents. Simply place garbage and trash ***inside*** the containers / dumpsters. Please do not leave trash/garbage bags on the ground. It should ***always*** be placed ***inside*** containers / dumpsters.

We sincerely appreciate your help in improving our neighborhood. Thank you.