



### NORWAY RAT

**TAIL:** Shorter than head & body  
**BODY:** Heavy, thick  
**EARS:** Average  
**EYES:** Small  
**NOSE:** Blunt

Also known as Brown Rat



**DROPPINGS:**  
 Blunt  
 Average length 3/4"

(Actual size)



### ROOF RAT

**TAIL:** Longer than head & body  
**BODY:** Slender  
**EARS:** Large  
**EYES:** Large  
**NOSE:** Pointed

Also known as Black Rat



**DROPPINGS:**  
 Pointed  
 Average length 1/2"

(Actual size)



### HOUSE MOUSE

**TAIL:** Long  
**BODY:** Small  
**EARS:** Large  
**EYES:** Small  
**NOSE:** Pointed  
**FEET:** Small  
**HEAD:** Small



**DROPPINGS:**  
 Pointed  
 Average length 1/4"

(Actual size)

## RODENTS *Family Muridae (All data based on adult, wild rodents.)*

NAME	TYPICAL LIFE SPAN	TYPICAL LITTERS/ GESTATION	TYPICAL WEIGHT	LENGTH		EARS	COLOR	FOOD PREFERENCES	FOOD CONSUMPTION PER DAY	WASTE PER DAY	HABITS
				BODY	TAIL						
<b>NORWAY RAT</b> <i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	6-18 mos.	# of young in litter 6-12	10-17 oz.	Heavy, broad 7"-10" long, blunt head	6"-8.5" long, lighter color on underside	Average, close to body	Usually grayish-brown but can vary from gray to dark brown. Belly is lighter.	Meats, fish, flour, fruits, vegetables.  Eats most human foods.	1-2 feedings	Droppings 40-50  Urine 15.7 cc	Prefers to live in burrows in earth. May nest in basements and walls if population is large. May forage 400 feet for food. Fair climber, good swimmer. Most active at night.
		Gestation 21-23 days							3/4-1 oz. food 1/2-1 oz. water		
<b>ROOF RAT</b> <i>Rattus rattus</i>	18 mos.	# of young in litter 4-8	6-12 oz.	Slender 6.5"-8" long, pointed muzzle	7.5"-10" long, uniform color, top & underside	Large, prominent	Usually dark brown to nearly black. Belly is lighter and grayish.	Seeds, fruits, vegetables, grains, eggs, etc.  Eats most human foods.	6-8 feedings	Droppings 40-50  Urine 15.7 cc	Usually enters and nests in upper parts of buildings. Also nests outdoors in trees (esp. palms), ivy, etc. May forage 400 feet for food. Seldom burrows. Excellent climber. Most active at night.
		Gestation 20-23 days							1/2-1 oz. food Up to 2 oz. water		
<b>HOUSE MOUSE</b> <i>Mus musculus</i>	6 mos. outdoors/ 18 mos. indoors	# of young in litter 5-6	1/2-1 oz.	Average 2.5"-3.5" long	3"-4" long	Large, prominent	Varies from light brown to dusky gray to nearly black. Belly is lighter.	Meats, grains, cereals, seeds, fruits, vegetables.  Eats most human foods.	20-30 feedings	Droppings 50-75  Urine 1.75 cc	Prefers nests near food but may forage 30 feet or more. Nibbles small amounts of food from numerous feeding spots. Most active at night.
		Gestation 18-21 days							1/10 oz. food No water (not needed if food contains 16% moisture)		

All numbers are approximations.



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# Commensal Rodents

## Rodent Identification and Control Tips

### Sanitation

- Sanitation is the cornerstone of lasting rodent control. There is no substitute for sanitation, and the program must be continuous or the benefits derived from sanitation will be quickly lost to reinvading rodents.
- Reduce harborage by eliminating weeds, refuse piles, overgrown vegetation and rubbish piles.
- Place garbage and trash in garbage cans and industrial dumpsters with tight fitting covers.
- Eliminate as much of the rodent's water source as possible, as rats need water daily and mice will drink freestanding water if available.

### Exclusion

- Since it is much easier to control rodents outside of a structure rather than within, the most successful and permanent form of rodent control is to "build them out."
- Cracks and openings in building foundations must be sealed. Doors, windows and screens should be tight-fitting.
- Use materials that are "gnawproof" such as sheet metal, expanded metal, perforated metal, floor drain grates, hardware cloth and cement mortar. Materials having an opening of 1/4 inch or less will exclude both rats and mice.

### Baiting

- Place baits in safe, secluded areas where rodents frequent. Proper placement of bait is extremely important as rodents tend to follow established paths from nests to food. They may not encounter bait placed too far from their path.
- Make sure you use enough rodenticide so the rodents cannot eat it all before your next service visit. Under baiting is one of the most common causes of rodent control failures.
- Use bait forms that are suited to the particular conditions. Soft baits can overcome competing food sources and they hold up well to heat; wax blocks may be the best formulation in damp areas; pellets and meal baits are well suited for rat burrow treatment.
- Store baits in areas where chemical contamination will not occur. Rodents can detect contamination and will not consume the tainted bait.
- Be sure to follow label directions and use tamper-resistant bait stations.

### Non-chemical Control

- Trapping is recommended where rodenticide use is inadvisable such as places where the material can't be adequately secured from children and non-target animals.
- There is a variety of snap traps on the market for rats and mice. When using snap traps, it is best to place the traps unset but baited (pre-baiting) for several days to acclimate the rodents to traps. Once bait is taken without hesitation, set the traps, kill some rodents and then go back to pre-baiting.
- There is also a variety of multi-catch mouse traps on the market. They can be effective if they are positioned and maintained properly.
- Since non-toxic blocks or soft bait are likely to be more palatable than their rodenticide counterparts, they can be used to determine if a rodenticide treatment has been successful. They can also be used to monitor for initial entry of rodents into a previously rodent-free environment, without the need to keep a rodenticide in place. However, in this situation, elimination will be delayed by the time between service visits.

