LIPHATECH®

COMMENSAL RODENTS

RODENT IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL TIPS

Norway Rat

aka "Brown Rat"



Tail Shorter than head & body
Body Heavy, thick
Ears Average
Eyes Small
Nose Blunt

Droppings
- Blunt
- Average length 3/4"



Actual Size

Roof Rat

aka "Black Rat"



Tail Longer than head & body
Body Slender
Ears Large
Eyes Large
Nose Pointed

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*

NAME	TYPICAL LIFE SPAN	TYPICAL LITTERS/ GESTATION	TYPICAL WEIGHT	LENGTH		EARS	COLOR	FOOD PREFERENCES	FOOD CONSUMPTION PER DAY	WASTE PER DAY	HABITS
				BODY	TAIL						
NORWAY RAT *Rattus norvegicus*	6–18 mos.	6–12 young per litter 21–23 day gestation	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 mostly human foods.	1–2 feedings ¾–1 oz food ½–1 oz. water	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.
ROOF RAT *Rattus rattus*	18 mos.	4–8 young per litter 20–23 day gestation	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 mostly human foods.	6-8 feedings ½–1 oz food up to 1 oz. water	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.
HOUSE MOUSE *Mus musculus*	6 mos. outdoors 18 mos. indoors	5–6 young per litter 18–21 day gestation	½–1 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 mostly human foods.	20-30 feedings 1/10–1 oz food No water (not needed if food contains 16% moisture)	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.

All data based on adult, wild rodents. All numbers are approximations.

COMMENSAL RODENTS

A successful integrated pest management (IPM) plan includes these things:

1. Identify the Problem

Common Evidence

- **Runways**: Established paths between shelter, food, and water—often along walls or objects.
- **Rub marks**: Dark, oily sebum deposits along frequently used routes.
- **Droppings**: Size and shape help indicate species; fresh droppings are often soft and shiny, while older droppings are dry and dull. Confirm with more than one sign.
- **Gnawing**: Fresh marks are lighter and may occur in pairs; mouse tooth marks are about 1/16 inch wide. Gnaw marks can be visible on wood, wiring, insulation and other materials.
- **Tracks and tail drags**: Look in dust using a strong flashlight held at a low angle.
- **Other clues**: Musky or ammonia-like odor, UV-visible urine trails, scratching sounds, and unusual pet activity.

Inspect Strategically

- Begin outside, then inspect inside; look high, low, and in dark, hidden areas.
- Check doors, vents, utility penetrations, foundations, wall voids, crawlspaces, roofs, burrows, nests, feeding sites, and water sources.
- Use day and night observations, customer interviews, and trail cameras when helpful.

2. Control with IPM

Exclude

- Seal openings with gnaw-resistant materials such as steel sheeting, 1/4-inch hardware cloth, galvanized steel, or concrete.
- Repair gaps around doors, siding, pipes, conduits, and vents; keep exterior doors tightly closed.

Remove Food, Water, and Shelter

- Eliminate clutter, debris, leaf litter, and yard waste; trim vegetation and keep grass 3 inches long or shorter.
- Clean spills daily, use rodent-resistant containers, and store food 12–15 inches off the floor.
- Maintain 24-inch inspection aisles along walls; remove pet food, fallen fruit, birdseed, and water sources.

Trap Where Rodents Travel

- Place traps along runways, walls, corners, and near tracks or droppings, with snap-trap triggers toward the runway.
- Use enough traps. For cautious rodents, prebait unset traps until feeding is established.
- Keep traps free of chemical odors; inspect glue boards frequently and avoid dusty or wet locations.

Use Rodenticides Responsibly

- Select the active ingredient and formulation for the target species, account, and environment.
- Place bait close to nests and in active runways; protect children and non-target animals with properly installed tamper-resistant stations.
- Follow the label for placement, amount, inspection, and servicing requirements.

3. Monitor, Document and Adjust

Track activity, bait or trap performance, corrective actions, and service dates. Reinspect vulnerable areas, confirm that sanitation and exclusion work is complete, and adjust placement or methods based on results.

The IPM Formula

Inspect + Identify + Exclude & Sanitize + Control + Monitor + Follow Up + Document

Professional use reminder: Always read and follow product labels and applicable regulations.

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Scan to view the complete **Commensal Rodent Facts Guide.**

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