

# Elimination

The Mahoning County District Board of Health provides services for your health and safety. For us to effectively bait and prevent rats from causing a nuisance, residents need to assist in the efforts. We ask that you do your part in rat control. Do not provide food, water, or shelter for rats.

Rat traps and baits can be purchased in most hardware, discount, or grocery stores. The poison in the baits can potentially be harmful to pets and children. Be sure to follow directions on the label and do not place baits within easy reach of pets and children.

An exterminator can also be hired if you do not wish to handle traps or baits yourself.

Traps and baits will kill rats. However, it is only a temporary measure. Rats will return if conditions are favorable to their needs. Cleanliness is the major key to prevent and control rats.



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Mahoning County  
District Board of Health

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**330-270-2855**

**Toll-free in Mahoning County**

**1-800-873-MCHD (6243)**

**[www.mahoninghealth.org](http://www.mahoninghealth.org)**

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# HOW TO PREVENT RATS

## INFORMATION ON CONTROL AND ELIMINATION



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**Mahoning County District  
Board of Health**

# Prevention and Control

## Trash provides food and shelter for rats.



Rats live and thrive in a wide variety of environments and are often found around homes and other buildings, on farms, and in gardens and open fields. Rats can be very destructive. They also may carry diseases such as plague, typhus, food poisoning, and many others.

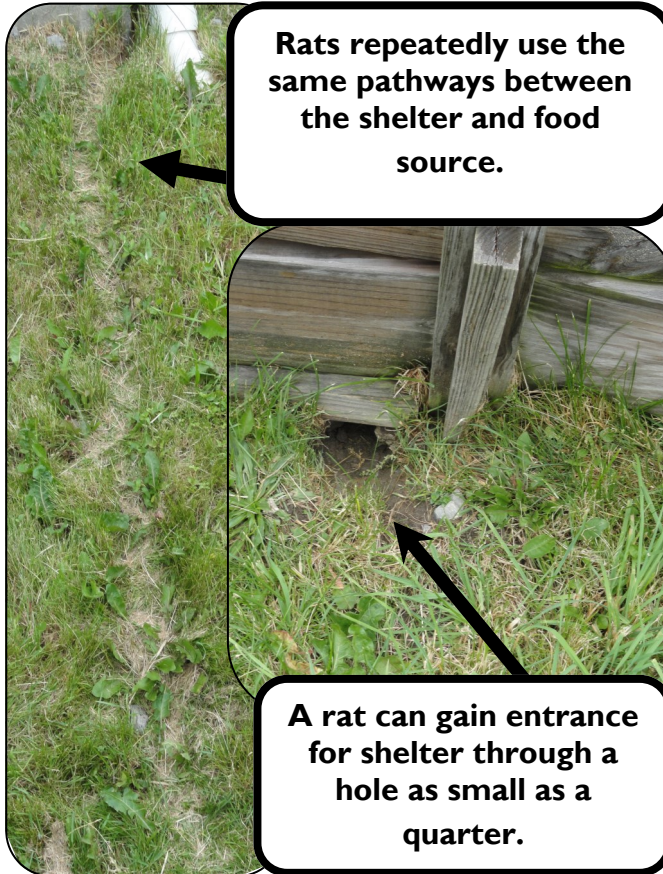
To prevent and control rats from living on your property, you must remove the 3 things that they need to survive; **food, water, and shelter.**



## CONTROL SOURCES OF SHELTER

- Do not pile trash/debris or unused outside appliances and furniture on the ground or against buildings.
- Place items such as building lumber, firewood, pipes, boxes, and other stored materials at least 18 inches off the ground.
- Store outside items 18 inches away from all walls.
- Cut back weeds, bushes, and vines to expose rat burrows and openings.

Rats repeatedly use the same pathways between the shelter and food source.



A rat can gain entrance for shelter through a hole as small as a quarter.



Rats can eat off of feed and bird seed that is on the ground.

## CONTROL SOURCES OF FOOD

- Do not accidentally feed rats. Bird feeders should be covered and elevated at least 5 feet above the ground and placed in an open area so the rats cannot jump onto it from surrounding objects. Feed and seed that has spilled onto the ground should be cleaned up.
- Make sure all outside trashcans have tight-fitting lids and all trash is inside the trashcans, and not just near them.
- Do not leave dog, cat, or animal food and water out at night.
- Clean up after pets each day as rats can feed off of dog and cat feces in the yard.

## CONTROL SOURCES OF WATER

- Do not leave pet bowls, children's toys, old tires, or bird baths, for example, on the ground or allow water to collect in them.