

Frequently Asked Questions about the City of Evanston Rodent Program:

1. **Why should I be concerned about rats?** Rats are destructive pests found in urban and suburban areas. These rodents eat and contaminate food, damage buildings and other property by gnawing and burrowing, and spread diseases that affect people and pets.
2. **What diseases are spread by rats?** Diseases spread by rats and other rodents include Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome, Hemorrhagic fever, Leptospirosis, Tularemia, Plague, Rat bite fever & Salmonellosis.
3. **What is the City doing about rodent control?** The Evanston Health & Human Services Department tracks and investigates 311 service requests and complaints, inspects alleys and properties for rodents and performs and contracts baiting and exterior treatment for residential properties
4. **I have seen a rat on my property, what should I do?** Call 311 with your complaint and submit to the Department a rodenticide release of liability that allows the Department permission to inspect and also treat. Treatment involves baiting with rodenticide in a secure manner.
5. **How are the rodenticides used in a safe manner?** The rodenticides are placed in resistant, sturdy bait boxes with small openings that will only allow small rodents such as rats in.
6. **Can my dog and cat have access to the rodenticide?** The openings to the bait boxes are designed for the entry and exit of small rodents.
7. **What types of rodenticides are used?** Contrac-All- Weather Blox are primarily used on residential properties. Contrac Rodenticide Place Pacs and Ditrac Tracking Powder are also used but for the direct treatment of burrows away from residential properties.
8. **What if my cat or dog eats a poisoned rat?** Dogs, birds and predatory and scavenging mammals might be poisoned if they feed upon animals that have eaten the bait. For animals showing signs of poisoning, please seek veterinary care.
9. **How does the rodenticide kill rats?** Rodenticides used have anti-coagulant properties which effectively blocks the vitamin K cycle thereby reducing the blood clotting ability of the rats.
10. How do I dispose a dead rat? Always wear intact rubber or plastic gloves when removing dead rodents and when cleaning or disinfecting items contaminated by rodents. Spray dead rodent with a disinfecting solution and place in a plastic. Dispose rodents in trash containers with tightfitting lids. If you need help, please call 3-1-1.
11. What can I do to control rodents on my property? (1) By eliminating rubbish and other materials that will provide rats a place to hide (2)Control weeds, shrubs and vegetation overgrowth, this gives rodents the means to move from location to location without being seen (3) By keeping food away. Do not put food out for stray animals and bird feeders (4) Manage garbage. Use durable, City-approved trash cans with tightfitting lids (5) Seal holes and openings to structures (6) Share this information. Tell your neighbors, tenants and landlords.
12. **Where do I learn more about rodent control?** To learn more about rodent control, please visit our website at www.cityofevanston.org/health/pest-control/ or call 3-1-1 to talk to one of our Inspectors about rodent control.