



# HENRICO COUNTY

Department of Community Revitalization

## RODENTS

### DIVISION OF COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE

The Division works cooperatively with citizens through education, volunteer assistance, and communication to gain voluntary compliance with county codes to promote a healthier and safer environment. Our motto is “Service through communication and care.”

### DID YOU KNOW?

By law, Henrico County requires property owners to maintain their property in a rat-free condition. Poisoning and trapping alone cannot control rats. If you have an infestation of rats, you must remove all sources of food, water, and harborage for effective control.



### HENRICO COUNTY CODE

Section 10-167 of the Henrico County Code states "it shall be the duty of each owner or occupant to keep his building and premises rat-proofed, freed of rats, and maintained in a rat-proof and rat-free condition and to eradicate any rat harborage.

### HOW DO RATS ENTER YOUR HOME?

Chimneys

Gable Vents

Overhanging tree branches

Torn window screens

Damaged walls or floors

Point of entry of pipes

Roof Ventilation

Point of entry of phone and electric lines

Broken or open doors

Crawl spaces under houses

Broken sewer pipes

Rotted or damaged wood

## HOW CAN YOU PREVENT RAT PROBLEMS?

- Remove sources of food. One ounce of dry food is all a rat requires per day.
- Pick up your pets' droppings. Rats can subsist on dog droppings when no other food is available. After feeding and watering your pets, remove bowls and store food in a metal container.
- Don't put bread or seed on the ground. If you feed squirrels or birds, you may also be feeding the rats.
- Use metal trash cans with lids . Rats can gnaw through plastic garbage cans.
- Harvest vegetable gardens as soon as they are ripe.
- Remove sources of water (bird baths, pet water bowls, standing water in splash basins, etc.). Rats require only 1/2 to 1 ounce of water per day.
- Remove rat shelters. Keep wood piles elevated 12-18 inches and away from walls. Steps leading into a house should be masonry or concrete. If they are made of wood, keep the space underneath bare.

## HOW DO I REPORT A VIOLATION?

If you are aware of a property in Henrico County that is in violation of this ordinance, please contact the Division of Community Maintenance. The Build Henrico website and phone hotline are available 24 hours per day. When you report a problem, you will be required to give your name and telephone number. This information is kept confidential and will not be released under any circumstances. It will be used only when County staff require additional information to investigate the case or to update you on the status of your concern. Visit <https://henrico.us/build> or call (804) 501-4757, Option 1, to report a violation.