

Don't Harbor Roof RATS in Your Ground Cover

Dense, thick, and climbing vegetation provides shelter and nesting opportunities. Wherever possible these types of plants should be replaced with species which achieve the desirable effects but will not contribute to a rat problem.

Desirable characteristics of plants that do NOT harbor roof rats:

- Plants should be low growing, not more than 10 inches in height.
- They should not be climbers.
- Fruiting plants should be avoided.
- Plants should provide soil stabilization.
- Plants should require a minimum of watering once established.

Undesirable plant species that harbor roof rats:

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>
<i>Hedera canariensis</i>	Algerian Ivy
<i>Thuja orientalis</i>	Chinese Arborvitae
<i>Bambusa sp.</i>	Bamboo
<i>Rubus procerus</i>	Himalayan Blackberry
<i>Lonicera caprifolium</i>	Honeysuckle
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Italian Cypress
<i>Populus nigra</i>	Lombardy Poplar
<i>Juniperus sabina</i> "Tamariscifolia".....	Juniper Tams
<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>	Date Palm Tree
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Pampas Grass
<i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</i> ...	Star Jasmine

Desirable Ground Covers that DO NOT harbor roof rats:

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>
<i>Nepeta hederacea</i>	Ground Ivy
* <i>Achillea tomentosa</i>	Woolly Yarrow
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Carpet Bugle
<i>Anthemis nobilis</i>	Chamomile
* <i>Arctotheca calendula</i>	Cape Weed
* <i>Arctotis</i>	African Daisy
* <i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Twinpeaks-Dwarf Coyote Rush
* <i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	Snow-in-Summer
* <i>Cylindrophyllum speciosa</i>	Red Spike Ice Plant
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	Wintercreeper
* <i>Festuca ovina glauca</i>	Blue Fescue
<i>Ficus repens</i>	Creeping Fig
<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	Wild Strawberry
* <i>Gazinia rigens</i>	Treasure Flower
* <i>Juniperus procumbens</i>	Nana
* <i>Juniperus conferta</i>	Shore Juniper
* <i>Mesembryanthemum floribunda</i>	Ice Plant
<i>Nepeta hederacea</i>	Ground Ivy
* <i>Osteospermum fruticosum</i>	Trailing African Daisy
<i>Thymus serpyllum</i>	Creeping Thyme

*Indicates plants that require low amounts of water

Code Enforcement

To report potential harborage due to property neglect, contact your Code Enforcement office.



<https://vcrma.org/invasive-aedes-mosquitoes>

How to Prevent and Control



RATS



COUNTY of VENTURA
Resource Management Agency
Environmental Health Division

800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009-1730
(805) 654-2816

vcrma.org/divisions/environmental-health



RAT FACTS

Did you know?

- Rats are omnivores - they will eat practically anything.
- The front teeth of rats grow continuously - they must constantly gnaw on things to keep these teeth ground down.
- Rat's bodies are flexible. They only need an opening $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter to enter a structure.
- Rats are excellent swimmers.
- Rats can jump 3 feet vertically and 4 feet horizontally.
- A female rat can give birth to over 25 offspring per year.
- Rats tend to avoid new objects placed in their environment.
- Rats can climb brick and other vertical surfaces.
- Rats can walk on telephone wires to gain access to roofs and upper stories of buildings.
- Rats can chew through adobe brick, cinder block, lead and aluminum sheeting, dry wall, and stucco.

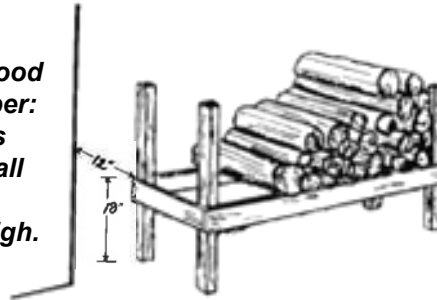
How to Rid Your Property of Roof RATS



✓ Remove Nesting and Harborage Areas

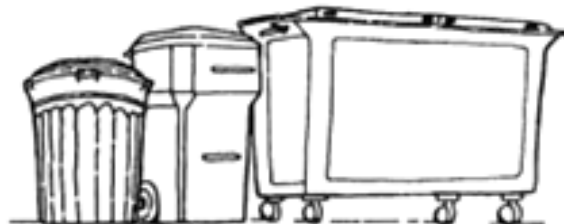
Periodically prune shrubs, vines, and trees away from buildings, fences, and other trees. Stack piles of lumber, boxes, etc., at least 18 inches above ground and 12 inches away from walls. Reduce any potential harborage and limit travel routes that may be used by rodents.

Properly stored wood and lumber: 12 inches from a wall and 18 inches high.



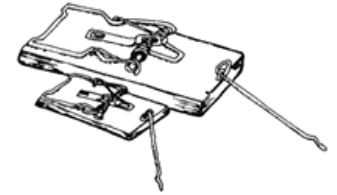
✓ Starve Them Out

Keep garbage and refuse in tightly covered metal containers. Keep entire premises clean and free of litter and debris. Store food in rat-proof buildings, rooms, and containers. Harvest fruits and nuts. Remove leftover pet food, including bird seed.



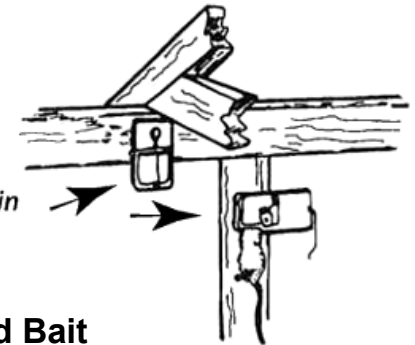
✓ Build Them Out

Fill or cover all holes in exterior walls. Use metal screening ($\frac{1}{4}$ inch hardware cloth) to tightly cover all vents, particularly sewer vent pipes on top of the house.



✓ Trapping

Use large wooden snap traps, baited with bacon, peanut butter, apples, nut meats etc. Place traps along walls and other known runway areas. Traps should be set at right angles to the rat runway. Fasten traps securely to structure with wire or strong cord, so rats cannot drag the trap away.



✓ Poisoned Bait

One must use caution and follow product label instructions when using poison baits, such as anticoagulants. Misuse can result in unintended harm to children, pets, and wildlife. Consider using poison baits only if necessary to control high numbers of rodents around the outside of a building. Hiring a licensed pest control applicator trained in the safe use of rodenticides is recommended. Carcasses should always be removed and properly disposed of as soon as possible.