

# Rats: Prevention Tips



Rats are destructive pests, capable of contaminating food and surfaces, and destroying equipment and physical structures. Prevent costly disruptions and reduce liability risks with Rentokil's rat prevention tips.

## Where you might see them

- Roof rats are excellent climbers. They can be found in upper levels of buildings, ceilings, trees, vegetation, or on rooftops.
- Norway rats like to burrow. They prefer lower levels and areas that are typically unoccupied.

## What you can do to help

Make note of any sightings or signs such as droppings and greasy rub or gnaw marks. This will alert your pest control provider of potential hotspots.

## Tips for prevention

- Develop and maintain an inspection process for incoming goods, particularly in warehouses.
- Be sure to install door sweeps on all exterior doors.
- Use hardware cloth, aluminum flashing or screening, or concrete to fill exterior holes and gaps.
- Place 6.35 mm wire mesh screens over all exterior ventilation openings.
- Inspect roof and seal any gaps or openings around HVAC units.
- Remove standing water. Repair water leaks, both inside and out. And check roof and gutters.
- Keep waste receptacles closed and away from the building.
- Remove and reduce clutter both inside and outside the facility.
- Seal all holes and gaps on the exterior, paying particular attention to areas around pipes, plumbing, wiring, and electrical exits/entries.



## ID and biology

- **Roof rat:** 33 to 45.7 cm long (from nose to tip of tail); dark grey to black; tail is longer than its head and body combined; pointed nose; large eyes; and large, almost entirely hairless ears.
- **Norway rat:** Brownish-black; 33 to 45.7 cm long (from nose to tip of tail); tail is shorter than its body length; small eyes; and small, hairy ears.
- Female rats can produce up to 7 litters per year with 5 to 12 pups.
- Rats will leave greasy marks along surfaces they repeatedly rub against. If a trap is newly introduced into their environment, they'll change their movement patterns, making it more difficult to capture them.

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