

7 Tips To Keep Rats Out Of Your Home!

By following these simple tips you will go a long way to reducing the likelihood of rats entering your home and encouraging them to go somewhere else where the pickings are easier.

1. Seal around windows and doors.

Rats only need a hole the size of a twenty cent piece to be able to force their way in. The most common way that rodents (rats and mice) enter houses is actually through the door! Therefore, it is advisable to install a weatherstrip on external doors which, as the door closes, is automatically pushed downwards to entirely close any gap at the base of the door, keeping out rats and other pests. Seal any other holes around the home.

2. Ensure garbage is in sealed bins.

Rubbish bins, compost bins and piles of vegetable matter are an easy and tasty food sources for rats. Ensure that all bins have tight fitting and preferably lockable lids. Never leave a lid off overnight. Don't forget the bins in kids' bedrooms where there are sometimes extra tasty treats! While you are at it make sure school bags are emptied of uneaten lunch items at the start of weekends and school holidays.

3. Keep pet food in sealed containers and remove any uneaten food.

Often rats do not even need to work at all for their food. A full cat or dog that leaves leftovers in a bowl has just handed a rat his dinner. Remove any uneaten pet food as soon as practicable. Store pet food in sealed containers so that there is little or no scent to attract rats.

4. Keep lawns short and gardens free of excess leaf litter.

Rats like to travel with cover. In a room, a rat will go around the edges using furniture to hide behind, and then dart across open areas. Outside, long grass will provide enough cover for a rat to easily and confidently forage for food in open spaces.

5. Pick up excess fruit and nuts from trees.

Fruit and nuts are amongst the most savoured of foods for rats. Macadamia nuts are often left to fall to the ground and can be the major food source for a large family of rats. Often macadamias (and snails for that matter) are taken away to hidey holes where the rat can be at leisure to devour the tasty morsel. It is not unusual to find large mounds of empty macadamia nut and snail shells in roof voids and other enclosed areas around a home. Clean up nuts and fruits as soon as they fall and place into the rubbish bin for pickup. If composting, ensure that the compost bin lid is secure.

6. Reduce the snail population (rats love escargots!)

Snails are not only a delicacy for the French. Rats love them and can sometimes find an almost unending supply of snails in the average back yard. The best way to quickly and safely reduce the snail population is to physically hunt them down and toss them in a bucket of water and then the bin. For the less adventurous, the regular application of snail bait will do the trick.

7. Buy a cat!

It might sound silly but these naturally wily hunters have been used for centuries for chemical-free pest control. Certain dog breeds like Fox Terriers and Jack Russells are also good "ratters".

Need help controlling your rodent population? Call us on 1300 PESTGO (1300 737 846).