



NORWAY RAT

TAIL: Shorter than head & body
BODY: Heavy, thick
EARS: Small
EYES: Small
NOSE: Blunt

Also known as Wharf, Sewer, Brown, Common



(Actual size)

DROPPINGS:
 Blunt
 Average length 3/4"



ROOF RAT

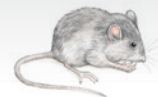
TAIL: Longer than head & body
BODY: Slender
EARS: Large
EYES: Large
NOSE: Pointed

Also known as Black, Fruit, Ship



(Actual size)

DROPPINGS:
 Pointed
 Average length 1/2"



HOUSE MOUSE

TAIL: Long
BODY: Small
EARS: Large
EYES: Small
NOSE: Pointed
FEET: Small
HEAD: Small



(Actual size)

DROPPINGS:
 Pointed
 Average length 1/4"

RODENTS *Family Muridae (All data based on adult, wild rodents.)*

NAME	TYPICAL LIFE SPAN	TYPICAL LITTERS	TYPICAL WEIGHT	LENGTH		EARS	COLOR	FOOD PREFERENCES	FOOD CONSUMPTION PER DAY	WASTE PER DAY	HABITS
				BODY	TAIL						
NORWAY RAT <i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	6–18 mos.	# of young in litter 8–12	10–17 oz.	Heavy, broad 7"–10" long, blunt head	6"–8.5" long, lighter color on underside	Average, close to body	Usually grayish brown but can vary from gray to dark brown. Belly is lighter.	Meats, fish, flour, fruits, vegetables. Eats most human foods.	1–2 feedings 3/4–1 oz. food 1/2–1 oz. water	Droppings 40–50	Prefers to live in burrows in earth. May nest in basements and walls if population is large. May forage 400 feet for food. Fair climber, good swimmer. Most active at night.
		# of litters per year 3–7								Urine 15.7 cc	
ROOF RAT <i>Rattus rattus</i>	18 mos.	# of young in litter 6–14	6–12 oz.	Slender 6.5"–8" long, pointed muzzle	7.5"–10" long, uniform color, top & bottom	Large, prominent	Usually dark brown to nearly black. Belly is lighter and grayish.	Seeds, fruits, vegetables, grains, eggs, etc. Eats most human foods.	6–8 feedings 1/2–1 oz. food Up to 2 oz. water	Droppings 40–50	Usually enters and nests in upper parts of buildings. Also nests outdoors in trees (esp. palms), ivy, etc. May forage 400 feet for food. Seldom burrows. Excellent climber. Most active at night.
		# of litters per year 3–7								Urine 15.7 cc	
HOUSE MOUSE <i>Mus musculus</i>	6 mos. outdoors/ 18 mos. indoors	# of young in litter 6	1/2–1 oz.	Average 2.5"–3.5" long	3"–4" long	Large, prominent	Varies from light brown to dusky gray to nearly black. Belly is lighter.	Meats, grains, cereals, seeds, fruits, vegetables. Eats most human foods.	20–30 feedings 1/10 oz. food No water (not needed if food contains 16% moisture)	Droppings 50–75	Prefers nests near food but may forage 30 feet or more. Nibbles small amounts of food from numerous feeding spots. Most active at night.
		# of litters per year 8								Urine 1.75 cc	

Commensal Rodents

Rodent Identification and Control Tips

Sanitation

- Sanitation is the cornerstone of lasting rodent control. There is no substitute for sanitation, and the program must be continuous or the benefits derived from sanitation will be quickly lost to reinvading rodents.
- Reduce harborage by eliminating weeds, refuse piles, overgrown vegetation and rubbish piles.
- Place garbage and trash in garbage cans and industrial dumpsters with tight fitting covers.
- Eliminate as much of the rodent's water source as possible, as rats need water daily and mice will drink freestanding water if available.

Exclusion

- Since it is much easier to control rodents outside of a structure rather than within, the most successful and permanent form of rodent control is to "build them out."
- Cracks and openings in building foundations must be sealed. Doors, windows and screens should be tight-fitting.
- Use materials that are "gnawproof" such as sheet metal, expanded metal, perforated metal, iron grills, hardware cloth and cement mortar. Materials having an opening of 1/4 inch or less will exclude both rats and mice.

Baiting

- Place baits in safe, secluded areas where rodents frequent. Proper placement of bait is extremely important as rodents tend to follow established paths from nests to food. They may not encounter bait placed too far from their path.
- Make sure you use enough rodenticide so the rodents cannot eat it all before your next service visit. Under baiting is one of the most common causes of rodent control failures.
- Use bait forms that are suited to the particular conditions. Soft baits can overcome competing food sources and they hold up well to heat; wax blocks may be the best formulation in damp areas; pellets and meal baits are well suited for rat burrow treatment.
- Store baits in areas where chemical contamination will not occur. Rodents can detect contamination and will not consume the tainted bait.
- Be sure to follow label directions and use tamper-resistant bait stations.

Non-chemical Control

- Trapping is recommended where rodenticide use is inadvisable such as places where the material can't be adequately secured from children and non-target animals.
- There are a variety of snap traps for both rats and mice. When trapping rats, it is best to place the traps unset but baited for several days to acclimate the rats to traps. Mice are more likely to readily investigate snap traps.
- Multi-catch traps can be very effective for capturing mice if they are positioned and maintained well. All but young male rats are too large to enter multi-catch traps.
- Non-toxic baits, those without active ingredients, are excellent for rodent monitoring.

