



## Fight Rats One Yard at a Time



### You can eliminate a rat's source of food and water:

- Store garbage in cans with tight fitting lids.
- Remove uneaten pet food and store food in rat proof containers.
- Clean up pet droppings on and around your property daily.



- Use rat proof bird feeders and clean up any fallen seed daily.
- Do not place food for squirrels, birds and ducks or any other wildlife on the ground.
- Remove sources of water.

### You can eliminate a rat's shelter and harborage:

- Keep yards trash free and clean areas behind wooden steps, under decks or any other sites that may provide shelter.
- Cut down high grass and weeds.
- Pile wood and other storage materials away from walls and at least 18 inches above the ground.
- Make sure windows and doors close tightly and place heavy screening on all basement windows.
- Seal any exterior holes in your home's foundation and walls.
- Fasten floor drains to keep rats from entering through sewers.



*Remember, if you eliminate a rat's food, water and shelter, you will eliminate the root of the problem.*

Erie County Health Department  
Vector Control Program



# ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RABIES, DISEASE & VECTOR CONTROL PROGRAM 503 KENSINGTON AVENUE, BUFFALO NY 14214



### Improper Garbage Storage

“Every occupant of a structure, building, bed and breakfast, rooming house, rooming unit, dwelling or dwelling unit shall dispose of and store all his garbage or any other organic waste which might provide food for insects, rodents or any other pest, in a clean, sanitary and safe manner. Garbage shall not be allowed to accumulate. Rodent-proof, insect-proof, watertight refuse containers shall be used for storage pending collection. The lid of the refuse container shall be on the container at all times, including when at curb pending collection.”

Erie County Sanitary Code, Article IX, Section 1.12



### Bird Feeding

“No person shall feed in the open any domestic or wild fowl, birds or animals other than in a suitable container and in such a manner so as to prevent scattering of food upon the ground or ground level which can or will provide food for rodents, insects, vermin or other pests. If an area is deemed infested with rodents, insects, vermin or other pests by the Erie County Commissioner of Health, all bird feeding shall be ceased until the area is no longer deemed infested with rodents, insects, vermin or other pests.”

Erie County Sanitary Code, Article IX, Section 1.15(d)



### Rodent Harborage

“Every owner and/or occupant of a premises, structure, building, bed and breakfast, rooming house, rooming unit, dwelling or dwelling unit shall store and dispose of accumulated rubbish, boxes, lumber, scrap metal, or any other materials in such a manner as to prevent rodent harborage in or about any premises, structure, building, bed and breakfast, rooming house, rooming unit, dwelling or dwelling unit. Materials shall be stacked neatly in piles elevated to a level high enough to permit effective cleaning.”

Erie County Sanitary Code, Article IX, Section 1.15(a)



### Dog Excreta

“Every owner or occupant of a dwelling or dwelling unit shall not store, place, or allow to accumulate any materials that may serve as food or harborage for rodents in a site accessible to rodents.”

Erie County Sanitary Code, Article IX, Section 1.15(c)

### Fruit Fallen from Trees



“Properly store garbage in rodent-proof containers with lids at all times.”

# It's the law.

Erie County Sanitary Code, Article IX, 1.12