

# Rodent problem identified in your neighborhood

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department suggests that residents bait their own property. This is a preventative measure to reduce the migration of rats from house to house. Be sure to follow all rodent bait product guidelines as stated on the package.



## Prevention Practices

- Temporarily **STOP FEEDING SEED, CORN, BREAD, ETC.**, to birds, squirrels, ducks and other wildlife until the problem is abated.
- Feed dogs and cats inside – if food is provided outside pick up the uneaten food promptly. **DO NOT LEAVE PET FOOD OUTSIDE OVERNIGHT**, rats feed at night.
- Dog feces can be a rat food source - feces should be collected and disposed of promptly.
- Compost piles which are not turned regularly can be a food source for rats. Follow proper guidelines to keep the compost pile unattractive to rats.
- Keep garages and sheds clear of **CLUTTER** - store items off the floor and keep access to the walls and corners so you can see rodent activity such as gnawed wood or droppings.
- Ensure that the foundation of the house & the garage are in good repair – decayed areas & holes allow easy entrance for rodents.
- Sheds installed on wood, brick, pavers, stone or dirt can allow for easy burrowing by rats. Inspect the base of the shed to be sure there are no rat burrow holes visible.
- Remove all wood and brush piles from the yard and keep firewood stacked at least 18" off the ground to prevent rats from burrowing under it.
- Cut tall grass, weeds & overgrowth from your property to reduce areas for rodents to hide.
- Keep garbage in plastic bags inside of tight trashcans.

## Trapping and Baiting

### Snap traps

- Snap traps are economical and provide the ability to control the disposal of the dead rodent.
- Peanut butter or bacon is good bait; tie it to the trigger with thread or thin wire if necessary.
- Place snap traps perpendicular to the walls in areas that rodents are using.

### Poison bait & bait stations

Take time to read the rodent poison bait label instructions and warnings before opening.



**TAMPER-RESISTANT BAIT STATIONS** are recommended for dispensing poison bait. They will keep the bait dry, covered and secure to protect children, pets and non-target wildlife from contact with it.

### Cleanup and disposal

- Wear rubber gloves for all cleanup work.
- Make a 1 part bleach to 10 parts water mixture to spray droppings and urine, and then use a paper towel to pick up the waste for disposal.
- Dead rats should be wrapped in newspaper or placed in a plastic bag before being put in a tightly covered garbage can. Burying the rat is not recommended.
- **WASH YOUR HANDS WITH HOT WATER AND SOAP AFTER HANDLING TRAPS, POISON BAIT, RODENT WASTE OR DEAD RODENTS.**

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department **IS NOT ABLE TO BAIT** private property due to liability and private property laws. Please contact us at 419-213-4100, extension 3, if you have any questions about rodent activity and rodent prevention on your property or in your neighborhood.