



Roof Rats

The roof rat (*Rattus Tattus*) is one of two introduced rats found in the contiguous 48 states. The Norway rat is the other species and is better known because of its widespread distribution.

Rats often live in trees or on vine covered fences. Landscaped residential or industrial areas provide a good habitat, as does vegetation of riverbanks and streams.

Being agile climbers, rats frequently enter buildings from the roof or access near utility lines which they use to travel from area to area.

They feed on a wide range of fruit, nuts, landscape ornaments and native plant materials. Roof rats begin searching for food short after sunset and usually carry it to a hiding place before eating it. They may live in trees or attics and climb down to a food source. This is important from the stand point of control.

Rats have a strong tendency to avoid new objects so traditional baiting or trapping may take several days before they will approach a bait station or trap. Although spring traps (snap traps), glue boards and live traps will work when eliminating roof rat populations, the most effective control for this small rat is with the combinations of glue traps and weather proof bait blocks.

If you have trees or landscaping covering your house you have a greater chance of having roof rats. Removing or reducing a cozy nesting place as well as removing rubbish, lumber piles or old equipment will help eliminate rats. Please realize that pet food and wild bird feed are all "Happy Meals," too.

Any openings larger than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch should be eliminated. Exclusion also includes repairing doors and window that do not operate properly or shut securely. Do not forget to inspect and repair roof turbines that may not be in sound working order.

For \$65, a Nations Residential Service pest contractor will place block bait in your attic and/or garage. Bait can not be put into the living areas of your home because of pets or children coming in contact with the insecticide. Upgrades can be purchased from the pest contractor: If a rat burrows into your insulation and dies you can pay for removal service or an attic deodorize. Also, you can pay extra for bait boxes to be placed in the yard.