

The Township of Union
Department of Health & Environmental Protection
Municipal Building – 1976 Morris Avenue
Union, New Jersey 07083
Phone # 908-851-8507

RODENT CONTROL GUIDELINES

1. Clean up your yard, alley and driveway of all trash.
2. Place all garbage in metal containers or rodent-proof cans with tight-fitting lids.
3. Eliminate rat shelters under porches, decks, outside stairs and in and under sheds.
4. Pile all wood or other material stored outside into closely packed units or stacks; these should be at least 12 inches off the ground.
5. A compost bin or pile should also be rat proof. Leaves and garden accumulations should be put into this compost bin—no food stuffs.
6. Inside buildings, floors, halls and stairways should be free of rubbish.
7. Sufficient cans should be used to prevent overloading and spilling of garbage and refuse.
8. Do not feed birds, cats or other wild animals. The practice of throwing pieces of bread, crackers and table scraps on the ground attracts rats.
9. House pets such as dogs or cats should not be fed outside & eliminate any standing water.
10. Food bits and scraps should be kept off the floors, halls and stairways.
11. Storage of all household foodstuffs in rat-proof bins, enclosures or rooms.
12. All drains should be covered so as to prevent entrance of rats.

If the rats have gained entrance, trapping can be used as another means of control.

NOTE: If you have an immediate rodent problem, it is recommended that you engage a New Jersey State Certified Pest Control Operator (exterminator).

TRAPPING

For information on trapping and baiting materials, call a New Jersey State licensed pest control operator (exterminator), a New Jersey, state-licensed animal control service or the local health department.

BUILDINGS

The following suggestions can be applied to building exteriors:

1. Examine the building foundation wall, then close all openings—larger than ½” with concrete reinforced with sheet metal, 19 gauge or galvanized hardware cloth.

Openings usually found are crevices in rock foundations, cracks in concrete, holes in tile or brick walls, holes around pipes, wires and conduits, holes around windows, cellars, stairways, delivery or coal chutes.

2. Screen, repair and/or close all openings in basement and first floor unit such as: (a) Ventilators; (b) grills; (c) sidewalk gratings; (d) ground level windows; and (e) other supports such as roofs, porches, stairs, pipes and wires.

All doors, windows, partitions, bulkheads, should fit tightly. Check foundation near electric meter & AC pipes. All broken glass windows, torn screens or damaged doors should be repaired. Shelf-closing devices should be installed on all doors that are in constant use. All drains, pipes or sewers should be closed or screened to prevent rats entering through these openings. Any building requiring major repairs should be referred to a professional contractor.