



How to Get Rid of Rats from Your House and Property

Rats can pose significant health risks and cause extensive damage to your property, making it essential to address any infestations promptly. Download, print, and share this document to use as a reference as you take on this fight!.

Developed by the SPI Team, the R.A.T.S. Protocol is key to taking immediate and logical steps.

The *R.A.T.S* Protocol:

Revue the problem ***A***ctionable Steps ***T***ermination Tactics ***S***ustainable Solutions

Review the Problem:

Take a deep breath, step back and look at the problem. Taking a logical approach is the best way to move forward. Ask yourself how big is the problem? Am I ready to take this on myself? Do I have a few desperate rats or an infestation? Now is the time to decide if you want to ask a professional for help. There is no shame in asking for professional help - just remember to make this decision without emotions because some Pest Control Pros will charge ridiculous prices because fearful homeowners will pay higher prices.

Actionable Steps: Address access, food sources, and habitat

The first step in eliminating rats is to identify and seal potential entry points. Inspect your home for cracks, holes, and gaps, particularly around doors, windows, and utility pipes. Use materials like steel wool or caulk to seal these openings, as rats can squeeze through surprisingly small spaces. Additionally, maintaining a clean environment is crucial; store food in airtight containers, promptly clean up spills, and ensure trash cans are tightly closed to eliminate food sources that attract these rodents. Review the SPI Framework below to effectively search your property in layers for Rat habitats then make the effort to remove the habitat (or learn to manage it in the next section).

Termination Tactics:

Once you've secured your home, consider employing traps, baits and natural repellents. Snap traps are effective for catching rats, especially when baited with high-aroma foods like peanut butter or hot dogs. Place multiple traps along known rat pathways, such as walls or corners, to

increase your chances of capture. Baits are a type of poison and are most effective for infestations and should be used with precaution. For a more humane approach, natural repellents can deter rats without harming them. Essential oils, such as peppermint and eucalyptus, can be soaked into cotton balls and placed in areas where you've noticed rat activity. The strong scents are unpleasant to rats and can help keep them at bay but should be used only as an additional layer of protection after traps and baits.

Sustainable Solutions:

Remember, the key to a rat-free home lies in a combination of prevention, effective trapping, and, if necessary, professional intervention. By taking these steps, you can reclaim your space and protect your property from these unwelcome pests. Reevaluate your situation daily, weekly, seasonally and annually depending on the severity of the problem. When you find an affordable solution that works for your situation, expect to repeat it annually as prevention.

The S.P.I. Search Framework

Now we will discuss the favorite habitats of rats and signs of habitation that you should be aware of as you use the S.P.I. framework to search your house and property

***Surroundings* *P*erimeter *I*nterior**

Rats are highly adaptable creatures that often seek refuge in human dwellings. This makes homes, garages, and surrounding properties prime habitats. Inside houses, common nesting sites include attics, basements, and crawl spaces, where they can find warmth and shelter. They are also known to inhabit cluttered areas such as storage rooms and behind walls, where they can remain undisturbed. In garages, rats may nest in boxes, under workbenches, or within piles of debris. Outside, they are frequently found in gardens, woodpiles, and near trash bins, where food sources are readily available. The presence of rats can lead to significant property damage and health risks, making it essential for homeowners to be vigilant.

To identify signs of rat habitation, homeowners should look for several key indicators. Droppings, which resemble small black pellets, are often found near nesting sites or food sources. Additionally, gnaw marks on furniture, wires, or walls can indicate active feeding. Other signs include unusual noises, particularly at night, and the presence of footprints or tail drag marks in dusty areas. Homeowners should also be alert for nests made from shredded materials, which can be hidden in secluded spots. By regularly inspecting these areas and being aware of these signs, individuals can take proactive measures to address potential rat infestations before they escalate.

Here is a visual description of the search pattern recommended in the SPI Framework.



Surroundings:

Creek, Stream, ditches, farms, restaurants or industrial areas near your property

Neighbor's yard, neighbor's garage, neighbors trash pile or wood pile.

Your own yard, garage, shed, trash, garden, chicken coop,

Perimeter:

Vines, dense bushes and trees touching the walls and roof of your house

Trash cans stored next to your house, woodpiles, garages

Time to look for and fill cracks and penetrations the size of your thumb at windows, doors, foundation and roof soffit

Interior:

Search and clean up any cluttered area, stored food, identify and fix water leaks.

Pro Tip: try setting traps before decluttering so you can take advantage of the established paths and behaviors of the existing rats. They are somewhat predictable and follow paths that they feel comfortable with. This may be a good first move to assess whether you have a few hungry rats or an infestation.

Conclusion:

With logical methodologies and effective action you CAN tackle this problem! Remember to check back with StopPestInfo.com for updated pro tips, science backed solutions and product reviews..