

# Changes You and Your Community Can Make

No one wants to live with rats. They are a community problem that must be addressed by all residents. When a rat infestation exists at one location it may easily spread to adjacent properties.

The town of Plainville takes rodent control seriously and has many programs and initiatives in place to curb rodent activity.

But we need your help. This guide offers tips for preventing rodent activity on your own property and in your neighborhood.



*“There is immense power when a group of people with similar interests gets together to work towards the same goals.”*

**Idowu Koyenikan**

## Tips to Keep Your Home and Yard Rodent Free

### ***CLEAN UP, TRAP UP, and SEAL UP***

Rats are everywhere, even in the cleanest of yards, but there are always extra measures you can take to keep rodents away.

Contact us at  
**508-695-3010**  
or on the web at [www.plainville.ma.us](http://www.plainville.ma.us)

190 South Street  
Plainville, MA 02762

Plainville  
Board of Health  
Plainville, MA



Plainville Health Department

***Prevent Rodent Activity in Your Neighborhood!***

Plainville  
Board of Health  
Plainville, MA



Keep your yard tidy by raking and disposing of leaves and sticks which would eliminate nice cozy sleeping areas for rats.

## Additional Information

### Town

[www.plainville.ma.us/1239/Rats-Wildlife](http://www.plainville.ma.us/1239/Rats-Wildlife)

### State

[www.mass.gov/service-details/problem-animal-control-agents](http://www.mass.gov/service-details/problem-animal-control-agents)

### Nation

[www.cdc.gov/rodents](http://www.cdc.gov/rodents)

# The dos and don'ts of Neighborhood Rat Prevention

*Rats are everywhere, even in the cleanest of yards, but there are always extra measures you can take to keep rodents away.*

*The three keys to rat prevention are CLEAN UP, TRAP UP, and SEAL UP*

### DO! >>>

**Do look for signs of infestation -**  
Signs would include burrow holes, droppings, and gnaw marks.

**Do clean up -** Garbage and clutter give rats a place to hide. This includes storing items against the wall.

**Pick up after your pets and clean your chicken coop daily -**

Rats are attracted to their feed and fecal matter.

**Do landscape -** Keep landscaped areas around your property free of tall weeds and trim shrubs that are close to the ground.

**Do fill in burrows -** Burrow holes can be filled in with tightly packed soil.

### Do! >>>

**Do seal it up -** Seal up holes inside and outside the home to prevent entry by rodents. Mice can squeeze through a hole the size of a nickel and rats can squeeze through a hole the size of a half dollar!

**Do stack firewood 18 inches off ground -** This discourages rats from moving in.

**Do take preventative measures -** Peppermint oil, lavender oil and citronella all have a deterring effect on rats. By, applying these scents around your home, you can actively repelling rodents.

### Don't >>>

**Don't leave trash out -**

Rats eat garbage, so store all garbage in hard plastic rat-resistant containers with tight fitting lids.

**Don't use a bird feeder -** As much as we love them, bird feeders attract rats and other unwanted pests.

**Don't have an open compost -** Not only will a rat use your compost pile to forage from, but they will also create a burrow to keep warm in during the winter months.

### Don't >>>

**Don't use glue traps and live traps -**

These traps can scare the rodent causing them to urinate. This can increase your chances of getting sick.

**Don't use poison -** There is a very real risk of ground water contamination and accidental poisoning of pets and wildlife.

**Don't try to exterminate yourself -** Extermination is a job best left to licensed pest control professionals (always ask to see their MA state License).



## Secondhand Poisoning >>>

It is illegal to throw uncontained poison on the ground. Neighborhood pets and other wildlife such as hawks and owls can come into contact either directly with the poison or indirectly by ingesting the poisoned rodent.

Hire a professional exterminator to help protect your home.

## A Day in the Life of a Rat >>>

Rats seek out places to live that provide them with everything they need to survive like food, water, shelter, and safe ways for them to get around. They use overflowing garbage bins, open dumpsters, and chicken coops to find food then use clutter like trash piles, stacked wood, or leaf litter to hide within to keep safe while they eat. For shelter, rats like to build nests in homes and within outdoor non-rat proofed containers. They will also live within burrows in the earth under bushes. Rats prefer traveling at night and along the same paths over and over, often using building foundations, walls, fences, and bushes to find their way.