



Garbage Attracts Rats

Best practices for garbage management:

- Clean sidewalks daily – grease stains attract rats
- Keep garbage in a container with a lid that is tightly closed
- Clean garbage bins / clean garbage areas
- Bleach-soaked rags can be used to neutralize garbage smells
- Don't put garbage out around tree wells or on earthen spaces
- Know garbage service schedules
- Put garbage out on the curb as close to pickup time as possible
- Address improper disposal and illegal dumping

Adopt a Can / Sponsor a can to decrease food availability in public litter basket spaces

Wire



Solid Steel



Big Belly



Rats in green spaces

- Rat's natural habitat is soil
- Rats nest near their food source; so never place garbage on or near trees
- Rats only need one ounce of food a day to survive; food litter and/or dog waste or pigeon food should be cleaned out of green spaces
- Rats seek out harborage; they prefer densely planted areas
- Rats travel along straight lines (curbs)
- Tree stewardship can reduce rat activity
- Caring for trees can help prevent rats
- If you have planters; inspect and clean frequently



What can a business do to reduce rats?

- Manage Garbage. Have the right number of garbage containers to hold all food waste. Containers should:
 - Not have any holes
 - Have tight fitting lids
 - Be clean and dry
- Bring garbage cans and bags to the curb as close to pickup times as possible. Use heavy duty plastic garbage bags at least 1.9 mills thick.
- Keep rats away from food waste by placing rags soaked with a 10% bleach solution (1 cup bleach to 2 gallons of water) inside the bags.
- Wash the garbage storage area, the curb, grease stains on sidewalks and garbage spills before closing time.
- Clean where you see flies. What attracts flies also attracts rats!
- Fill holes and cracks in the sidewalk and curb with cement. Patch holes in the curb.