



NORTH COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT RODENT CONTROL

Got Rodents? Discouraging and Eliminating Rodents is the Responsibility of All Residents

With its variety of land uses, an abundance of farms, ranches, and large acreages, it is not uncommon to find rats and mice throughout Haida Gwaii. As part of the North Coast Regional District's (NCRD) annual review of solid waste collection services on Haida Gwaii, we found there to be a higher than average number of rodents hiding in garbage receptacles collected from residents across the island.

As you know, rodents can cause significant property damage, contaminate food, and potentially spread disease - and their population can multiply rapidly. Getting rid of rats and mice is a responsibility that lies with all property owners and residents must do their part to reduce the rodent population. Whether rodents are seen on private or public property, the public should take the following steps to discourage them quickly and efficiently:

1. Get rid of food and water sources:

- In the home, garbage should be removed frequently and stored in pest proof containers with tight fitting lids.
- For pickup, garbage should be kept in (maximum) 2 bags in (maximum) 2 regulation sized garbage receptacles with tight fitting lids.
- Follow good composting practices for rodent control and use a pest-proof compost container.
- Remove pet food right after feeding and do not leave it outside overnight.
- Remove fallen fruits and nuts from your yard.
- Repair any plumbing leaks to remove a water source.

2. Eliminate hiding and living places:

- Keep building perimeters clear of plantings, stored lumber or junk.
- Trim plants near buildings so that 15 to 20 cm (6 to 8 inches) above ground is clear. Trim branches of trees or shrubs to prevent access to roofs or balconies.
- Remove unused piles of lumber and old sheds.

3. Pest proof buildings:

- Cover crawl spaces, fresh air and attic vents with 6mm (1/4 inch) metal screening or steel mesh.
- Seal any possible entry points in the building exterior that are greater than 6mm (1/4 inch). Pay close attention to door jams and gaps between the siding and the house foundation. If you have roof rats, don't forget to check for holes in areas of the roof.
- Repair cracks in cement footings and foundations.
- Build sheds on concrete slabs.

The best way to get rid of rodents is by using traps. When using spring loaded traps for rodents, start by baiting three of them in a row without setting them. Bait with dried fruit, peanut butter mixed with oats, or cheese. Wear gloves when handling a dead rodent and the trap. Double bag the dead rat or mouse, seal the bags, and place the bags in the trash. The trap can be reset if gloves are worn.

For more information:

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