

FAQ: Keeping Rodents Out of Private Property

Q: What can I do to keep rats away from my backyard?

A: Maintain a 1-meter clear buffer between your fence and the greenbelt. Rats like to hide in dense vegetation, so keeping this area open helps deter them.

Q: Can I put yard waste or branches in the green space behind my house?

A: No. Do not dump lawn clippings, soil, or branches into the greenbelt. These piles create ideal hiding and nesting spots for rats.

Q: What should I do if I see garbage or animal attractants in the green space?

A: If it is safe to do so, dispose of any garbage. Leftover food and waste attract rats and bears. You can report garbage issues to "Report a Concern" in Maple Ridge, BC, or call 604-463-9581

Q: Is it okay to leave pet food outside?

A: No. Pet food left outside can attract rats, raccoons, and even bears. Always bring food dishes in after use.

Q: Can I store my garbage bins in the backyard?

A: It is not recommended. Garbage bins should be stored securely, away from open areas. Rats and bears are drawn to the smell.

Q: Should I use a backyard composter if I live near a greenbelt?

A: Composters can attract rats, especially near natural areas. We recommend you not add table scraps to your compost.

Q: What about fruit trees in my yard?

A: Fruit trees can draw in rats and other wildlife if fallen fruit is left on the ground. If you have fruit trees, be sure to harvest the fruit promptly and clear away any that falls.

Q: Who is responsible for dealing with rats on private property?

A: Property owners are responsible for managing rat issues on their own property.

Q: Can the City come remove rats from my yard?

A: No, the City does not provide pest removal services for private property. You may need to contact a licensed pest control company.

Q: What can I do if my neighbor is attracting rats?

A: If you believe a neighboring property is contributing to a rat problem (e.g., due to garbage, compost, or debris), you can report it to Bylaw Services (604 467 7305) for investigation.

Q: Are there any traps or deterrents I can use?

A: Yes, there are various rat traps and deterrents available at hardware stores. Avoid using poisons outdoors, as they can harm pets and wildlife. A pest control professional can recommend safe options.

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