

## Rat Control in Alberta

### Alberta is proudly “rat-free”

This means we have zero tolerance for rats. There are no permanent populations of rats, and we do not allow them to establish themselves. Sometimes a few “hitchhike” into the province and we deal with them quickly.

#### Why is it important for Alberta to stay rat-free?

Rats are invasive pests that pose a risk to human health, property and the economy. They can:

- Consume and contaminate crops and food
- Spread dangerous diseases to people and other animals
- Damage buildings and electrical wires

#### How do we stay rat-free?

We stay vigilant. Many groups work together to ensure we retain our status, including Alberta’s rat control staff, pest control officers, farmers, landowners and municipalities.

#### What do I do if I see a rat in Alberta?

If you see a rat, report it!

If possible, safely take a picture of the rat, note the location, and email the information to: [rats@gov.ab.ca](mailto:rats@gov.ab.ca) or call 310-FARM (3276).

The two types of rats we are concerned about in Alberta are the Norway and Roof rats (pictured above):

Note any droppings, burrows or other possible signs.

It is illegal to own pet rats in Alberta.

#### How can we prevent rat infestations?

If travelling out of province, always watch for signs of rats upon your return. Rats can hitch rides in cars, trucks and holiday trailers into Alberta. They are often hungry and dehydrated when they arrive and will seek out food and water. They often start to nest under the hood of a vehicle.

Remove garbage, clutter or possible sources of food and be aware of any potential shelters.

#### Rat infestation signs:

- Burrows: cylindrical entrances about five to eight centimeters (two-to-three inches), clean of debris and soil.
- Trails: well-beaten paths to food or water sources about five centimeters (two inches wide).
- Droppings: about the size of an olive pit (1.25-1.5 cm) with blunt ends and shiny black in colour.
- Chew marks: larger scrapes than mice, and found on wood, paper or partially eaten food.



Mouse feces (left)  
Rat feces (right)



Norway rat (top)  
Roof rat (bottom)

<https://www.alberta.ca/albertas-rat-control-program>

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