

# what you can do to keep **RATS** away from your house



**Rats can contaminate food, spread disease, damage property and cause injuries and bites especially to small children. As far as possible, contact between rats and people should be prevented. Rats can survive on very little, needing only food, water and some shelter. This leaflet gives some simple steps to take to help keep rats away from your house and family.**

## **Deprive Rats of Food and Water**

By keeping your house and garden very clean you can help keep rats away:

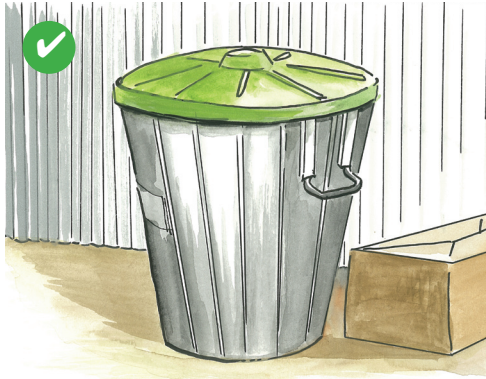
- Keep food and water in covered containers.
- Wash dishes, pots, pans and cooking utensils immediately after use.
- If you keep rubbish inside your house, do so in a container with a tight-fitting lid.
- Fix dripping taps and leaking roofs as soon as possible.



## Remove Possible Rat Shelters

Rodents like to move around under cover.

- Remove rubbish as soon as possible.
- Remove all possible equipment, construction materials and other items from your garden.
- Keep grass short and remove thick bushes that can give rats shelter.



## Rodent-proof your home

To stop rats from coming into your home, seal gaps and holes that are more than 2cm wide with cement, wire mesh, steel wool or other patching materials.



## Traps and baiting

Use traps to reduce rat numbers. Snap traps are better than rat poisons (such as pellets or powders), which can cause poisoning in children.

- Place traps with foods such as peanut butter or cheese in areas with rats.
- Always hold traps by the edges, away from the trigger.
- Keep children and pets away from traps.
- Rats that are caught should be carefully buried. Use gloves when disposing of dead rats.
- Cats and owls kill rats and help keep their numbers down, but may be killed if rat poison is used at the same time.

**For further advice contact City of Johannesburg Vector Control Unit  
on Telephone: 011 407 6494**