

## Rodent Prevention Checklist

- NO FOOD LEFT OUT
- RUBBISH IS CONTAINED AND NOT OVERFLOWING
- CLEAR ALL CLUTTER
- FIREWOOD IS STORED ABOVE GROUND LEVEL
- PET WASTE AND FALLEN FRUIT/VEGETABLES SHOULD BE PICKED UP DAILY
- CLEAN GRILLS THOROUGHLY

### CHECK FOR:

- Rodent droppings
- Scratching noises
- Burrows
- Dirt Marks
- Footprints
- Gnaw marks & debris



*Rat tracks to food source from fallen bird seed. Photo credit: Peter Tripi*

#### TOWN OF TONAWANDA HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

**Ted Rymarczyk**, Highway Superintendent  
**Jill O'Malley**, Councilwoman/Committee Chair  
450 Woodward Ave Kenmore, NY  
Phone: (716) 875-8822

#### TOWN OF TONAWANDA BUILDING DEPARTMENT

**Tom Duncan**, Supervising Code Enforcement Officer  
**Gina Santa Maria**, Councilwoman/Committee Chair  
525 Belmont Ave Tonawanda, NY  
Phone: (716) 877-8801

**Joseph H. Emminger**  
Supervisor Town of Tonawanda

#### VILLAGE OF KENMORE BUILDING DEPARTMENT

**Michael Berns**, Building Inspector  
2919 Delaware Ave Kenmore, NY  
Phone: (716) 873-5700

**Patrick Mang**  
Mayor Village of Kenmore

## Rodent Control Information





## Rodents & Infestation

Rats like to live where people live and they can thrive on just an ounce of food and water a day. Rats eat what we eat. Our food waste is their favorite meal. They also eat unattended and improperly stored pet food, fecal matter from pets, bird seed, etc. That is why it is important to store garbage properly. Tall weeds and grass, tires, garbage, wood piles, furniture and appliances can provide rats with the shelter they need to protect them from predators, including humans.

Rats & mice gain entry into homes and public buildings through breaks, cracks and tiny openings (smaller than a dime) in foundations or siding. They can also enter through open or unscreened windows, doors, ventilators, sidewalk gratings and basement vents. They can burrow under shallow foundations and pass through openings around pipes or conduits entering the foundation or inside the house. Floor drains, transoms and openings can also provide entry points.

There are measures that you can take to reduce the risk of infestation.

## Prevention

- Cover all totes with tight fitting lids at all times. (Section 181-4A of the Town Code)
- Do not use bird feeders which allow food to fall to the ground or make food available at ground level (Section 181-17.1C)
- Trash, boxes, lumber, scrap metal or other piles of debris should be removed to prevent harborage or sheltering of rodents. Materials should be stacked neatly in piles to allow adequate cleaning. (Section 181-17.1B)
- Dog waste and fallen fruit/vegetables must be cleaned up to prevent rats from feeding on these materials (Section 181-17.1A)
- Remove sources of water.
- Make sure windows & doors close tightly and place heavy screening on all basement windows.
- Seal any holes in your home's foundation.
- Fasten floor drains to keep rats from entering through sewers.
- Do not allow yard waste to pile up on the ground.
- Composting must be done in a rodent-proof enclosure.

## Elimination

Baiting rats must be done by a licensed professional. The Erie County Department of Health has a baiting program.

Anticoagulant bait preparations that prevent blood clotting are the most effective rat poisons for home use, but continuous feedings are required for three (3) to seven (7) days.

It is important to make sure pets and children do not have access to the poison. These poisons can also be dangerous to animals that feed on rats.

**DO NOT TRY TO BAIT RODENTS YOURSELF!**

TO REPORT COMPLAINTS OR REQUEST  
BAITING SERVICES, PLEASE CALL THE:

**ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH  
RABIES, DISEASE & VECTOR  
CONTROL PROGRAM**

**(716) 961-6800**

**BUSINESS HOURS:  
8:30 AM—4:30 PM  
MONDAY—FRIDAY**