



CITY OF PLYMOUTH RODENT, PEST, & OTHER CRITTER PREVENTION TIPS

Spring brings warmth and sunshine, and it gives everyone a pleasant reward after a harsh winter. But the season also brings more rodents and pests as insects, skunks, rats, raccoons, and other critters emerge now that the cold is gone.

Residents, business owners, and visitors all play a vital role in rodent, pest, and other critter prevention.

Rodents include squirrels, chipmunks, rats, mice, and others.

Rodents, pests, and other critters require three things to survive: food, water, and shelter.

Signs you might have rodents at or around your property:

- Holes, burrows, or hills in the grass or ground
- Trails or tracks
- Droppings



Following the tips below will make your property less attractive to rodents, pests, and other critters:

1. Eliminate common food sources

- Properly dispose of garbage including pet waste left in the yard, any debris/trash on the ground, and small trash like bottle caps, cigarette butts, and gum wrappers
- Keep tight fitting lids on trash, compost, and recycling containers
 - Do not overfill trash, compost, and recycling containers
 - Ensure there are no cracks or holes in your trash, compost, and recycling containers
- Ensure dumpsters are tightly sealed and lids are closed
- Remove compost piles that are not in a sealed bin, cart, can, or paper lawn and leaf bag
- Abolish bird/squirrel feeders, and clean up any food spillage on the ground
- Pick up produce from gardens and fallen fruit from trees

2. Get rid of stagnant water

- Eliminate bird baths
- Remove decorative fountains or ponds
- Fix leaky plumbing: hoses and spigots
- Reduce puddles or other areas of standing water in your yard

3. Maintain a clean, sanitary environment

- Keep grass and landscaping neat, trimmed, and free from weeds
- Keep firewood piles at least 12 inches off the ground
- Sweep up any litter and loose debris
- Ensure your garage, shed, deck, patio, and home are properly sealed and secured with no openings more than ½ inch
 - Check your shed or garage for a ratwall and your deck has proper skirting (chicken wire)

If you discover signs of rodents, pests, or other critters, help yourself and your neighbors by using these tips. Hiring a professional may be necessary. For more information and home solutions visit www.pests.org.

Everyone is part of the solution! Let's help each other!

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