

# Rodent Control

For households



[logan.qld.gov.au](http://logan.qld.gov.au)



## Rats

Did you know that not all rats and mice are pests? We recommend that you identify the species of rodent present before you take control measures.

For further information to assist you in identifying rodent species, please refer to the Department of Environment and Science website:

[environment.des.qld.gov.au/wildlife/animals](https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/wildlife/animals)

Rats are social animals that live together with well-defined territories and a social hierarchy. There are two major pest species of rat, commonly called the Norway rat and the Roof Rat. The Norway rat is a large, stocky rat with small ears and a tail shorter than its body. Norway rats usually dig shallow burrows in the ground. When they are indoors, they can nest inside walls and underneath equipment. They can even be found in cluttered storage areas and other similar sites. They prefer the lower stories in buildings.

The Roof rat is a slender rat, with large ears, a pointed nose, and a tail that is longer than its body. Roof rats nest above ground in trees. Yet as the name suggests, they will nest in roof spaces and the upper levels of buildings. Both species will nest in sewers and storm drains.

## Be careful - we're not all bad

The Water Mouse, Bush Rat and Water Rat are native Australian species (pictured right). We have 60 native species in Australia. Native species are protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

Bandicoots and antechinus are native marsupials. They are often mistaken for rats as they share their appearance and nocturnal habits. These native animals are not vermin. Bandicoots play an important part in the natural ecology of your backyard. Always attempt to observe and identify that the rat in your yard is a rat before you begin trapping or baiting.

Try to use baiting or trapping techniques that are unlikely to harm these native animals. Such as cage traps that allow you to view and identify the animal before deciding whether to dispose of it. If baiting outside, place them off the ground. Or even within an artificial structure, such as a rodent bait station. This discourages native wildlife from consuming the bait which protects the environment.

## Damage

Rats can indirectly spread several serious human diseases by way of fleas and mites. Most notably plague and scrub typhus fever. Rats cause damage by gnawing on almost anything to keep their teeth sharp.

Rats gnaw on things like:

- household doors
- skirtings
- upholstery, books
- food containers
- packaging
- equipment parts
- machinery

## Control methods

To control rodents on your property, it is necessary to use a combination of control methods. Some control methods are designed to reduce the environment's capacity to support rats. These methods are such as removing sources of food, water, and shelter. If you don't remove all sources of food, you will not be able to control your rodent population.

Common food sources in residential areas include:

- Dog and cat food left outside or in areas where rats could gain access.
- Bird seed from either from bird cages or seed given to wild birds.
- Non-rodent-proof compost bins / heaps.
- Unsealed packets of food in kitchen cupboards or other areas where rats could gain access.
- Rubbish and spilled food in rat accessible areas.
- Fruit and nut trees, including the orange/yellow fleshy seeds of some palm trees.  
You should always remove fallen fruit.
- Poultry and livestock feed that are not stored in suitable containers.



## Baits and Traps

Many rat baits / traps are available at your local supermarkets, hardware stores and produce outlets.

Care should be taken to ensure you abide by the manufacturer's instructions. Most Rat Baits have restrictions for use in and around buildings (within 2 m) or enclosed spaces. You must remember to read the rodenticide label before placing the bait.

You should place them in safe areas that you can see evidence of rat droppings. Baits must always be kept out of reach of children.

**DO NOT** place bait in locations that are accessible to your animals. Bait is hazardous to dogs, cats, pigs, poultry, and other wildlife.

### To help control rats on your property and stop them breeding follow these tips:

- Prevent access into buildings by blocking any holes and gaps.
- Repair any breakage or holes in wall linings and roof cavities immediately.
- Restrict rats running up building pipes by placing metal gauze over the ends.
- Trim overhanging tree branches near your roof so rats can't use them to get onto your roof.
- Keep stored items tidy and preferably off the ground.
- Keep your yard well maintained and tidy. Removing any accumulated items, such as branches, rubbish, and disused equipment.

**If you experience rat and/or mouse nuisance on your property, you can contact a local Pest Management Technician.**

**For further information**

**Phone: (07) 3412 3412**

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