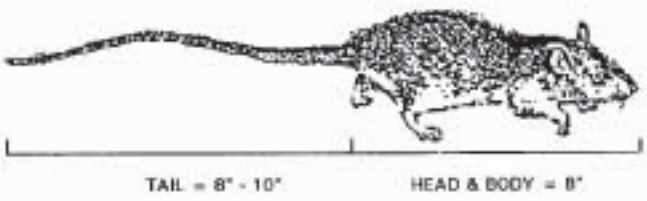
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

RATS

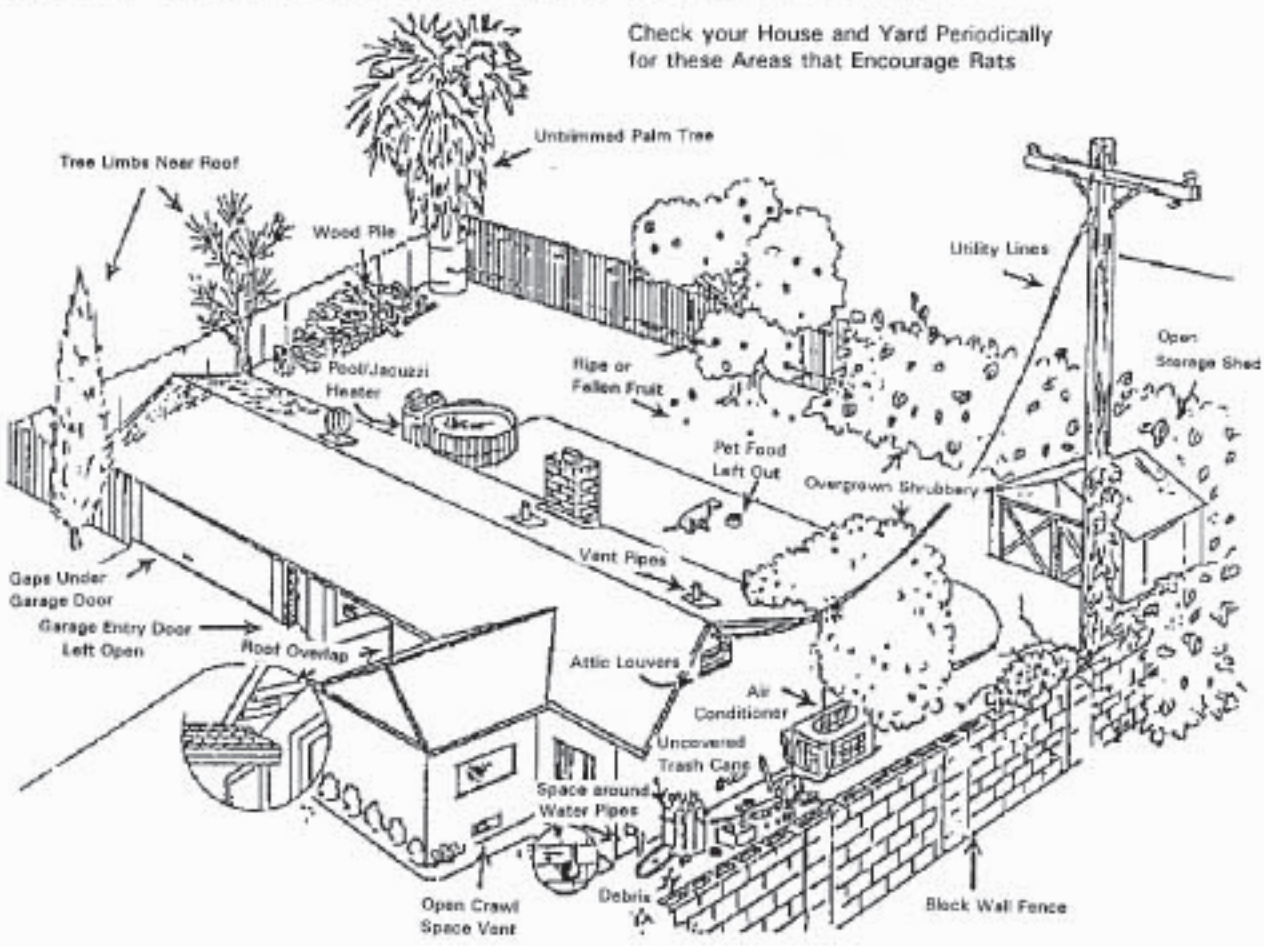
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?



DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THESE?

- Hollowed out fruit in trees
- Bark stripped from bougainvillea or ivy
- Damaged snail shells in hidden areas, under vegetation or in woodpiles
- Rat dropping ( ) in garages, utility storage building, attics or other sheltered areas.

DO ANY OF THESE CONDITIONS EXIST ON YOUR PROPERTY?



IF SO, YOU MAY BE INVITING RATS FOR AN EXTENDED VISIT!

In San Diego County, the roof rat *(Rattus rattus)* is the species that lives in our residential areas. These rats live anywhere: under piles of wood and debris; in garages, attics, and storage areas; and in dense shrubbery, thick ivy growth and palm trees.

RATS CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT FOOD, WATER AND SHELTER. IF YOU CAN ELIMINATE THESE SOURCES, YOU HAVE GONE A LONG WAY TOWARD SOLVING YOUR PROBLEM!

STEP 1. RODENT PROOF YOUR HOUSE AND STORAGE BUILDINGS

- Check the exterior of your house for openings larger than ¼ inch.
- Pay particular attention to the areas shown in the drawing on the other side of this page. Openings you may find should be closed.
- Materials to use for repairs include: ¼ inch, 18-22 gauge wire hardware cloth; liquid foam; plaster; plywood; and metal sheeting.
- Doors may be sealed along the bottom with metal weatherstripping.

PLACING POISON BAIT INSIDE A BUILDING IS NOT RECOMMENDED!
RATS MAY DIE INSIDE WALLS OR ATTICS AND CREATE ODOR AND FLY PROBLEMS.

- Traps should be used when rats have entered any part of your house.
- Place traps along runways, entry points or where droppings are seen.
- Use **CAUTION** when placing traps around children or pets.
- Bait traps with peanut butter or food the rats have been eating.
- Traps placed in attics or hard to reach areas should be tied down.

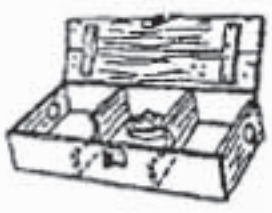
STEP 2. CHECK YOUR PROPERTY FOR FOOD SOURCES

- Use garbage cans with tight fitting lids. Keep lids closed at all times.
- Pick fruits, nuts and vegetables as they ripen. Eliminate fallen fruit.
- Feed pets during daylight hours only. Remove uneaten food immediately.
- Food stored in garages or other places outside the home should be in glass or metal containers with tight fitting lids.

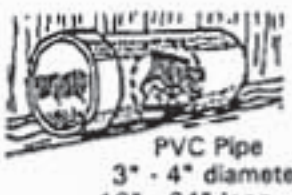
STEP 3. USE OF POISON BAIT OUTSIDE THE HOME

ALWAYS READ THE CONTAINER LABEL WHEN USING POISONS. FOLLOW ALL DIRECTIONS AND NOTE ALL PRECAUTIONS.

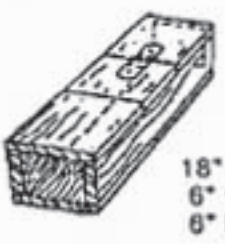
- Before using poison bait, rodent-proof your home. Multidose, anticoagulant poisons are recommended. These poisons kill by limiting the blood's natural clotting ability, causing internal bleeding. THESE POISONS REQUIRE SEVERAL DAYS OF FEEDING BY THE RATS!
- Place poison bait in an enclosed bait station in a protected area, such as under woodpiles, in heavy vegetation or where nesting or rat runways are located. The bait stations shown below can be made at home, or you can purchase one at the store.



18" long
10" wide
6" high



PVC Pipe
3" - 4" diameter
18" - 24" long



18" long
6" wide
6" high

- Wrap bait in waxed paper to protect it from moisture and spillage.

KEEP BAIT STATIONS OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN AND PETS!

- Check and replace any eaten bait daily.
- Place dead rodents in plastic bags and put them in your garbage can.
- When feeding stops, begin Step 4.

STEP 4. ELIMINATE SHELTER

- Woodpiles, lumber and household items should be neatly stacked not less than eighteen (18) inches above the ground and away from walls and fences.
- Trim trees, bushes and vines at least four (4) feet away from roof line.
- Clean up and haul away junk and debris.
- Keep heavy vegetation such as ivy, bougainvillea and pyracantha away from buildings and fences and thin regularly.

REMEMBER - YOU MUST CONTINUE THESE STEPS TO KEEP RATS FROM MOVING IN AGAIN!

Questions? **Call:** (858) 694-2888 in Metro San Diego
(760) 940-2807 in the North County