



TOWN OF MENDON

BOARD OF HEALTH

18 Main Street | Mendon, MA 01756

PH: (508) 634-2656 | Email: BOH@MendonMA.Gov

Alan Greenberg | *Chairman*

Tom Fichtner | *Vice-Chairman*

Joyce Gilmore | *Member*



Unfortunately, rats and mice are a common sight in New England, especially around wooded areas. During the summer months outdoor rodent activity increases. Rodent activity has spiked due to the drought conditions as rodents run out of drinking water in swampy areas and ponds; they move closer to people's homes.

Reduce Sources of Food, especially outdoors. Certain innocuous sources of food can draw rodents in and bring them back even if you've controlled the population before. To help reduce draws for rodents, you can do the following:

- **Make sure you put out trash only in durable hard-plastic or metal bins**
- **Store animal feed (for chickens or pets) in metal bins/containers**
 - *Top favorites are cat & dog food, cracked corn (and scratch, which contains cracked corn) and textured (contains molasses) horse feed. Birdseed might make the list too but evidence usually points to squirrels/chipmunks on this one. Pelleted grain for sheep, chickens, cattle or horses is a last resort. Put squirrel-guards or other rodent deterring material around bird feeders, seed catchers, or remove bird feeders entirely*
- **Make sure your lawns are well mowed and tended, as overgrowth can make it easier for rodents to hide**
- **Keep areas near grills and outdoor cooking spaces clean from spilled food**
- **Pick up after your pets! Pet feces can attract rodents**

Remember that in all cases, it's best to contact a licensed pest control operator to assess your home and help you control a rodent population. Mice tend not to range far from their burrows, but rats can range quite a distance. A rat problem in one home may indicate that the issue is street-wide. If you notice rats, talk to your neighbors and try and coordinate pest management plans to make sure the problem is dealt with. Talk to your neighbors about mitigating sources of food or pest harborage, like removing debris from their front lawns, making sure trash is properly kept in rodent-proof bins, and animal feed (if applicable) is properly stored.

If you would like to "Do It Yourself", there are a couple of popular deterrents.

1. **RatX** is available at [AMAZON.COM](https://www.amazon.com)
 - a. 100% natural method to eradicate rats and mice in just one feeding
 - b. Zero chance of secondary poisoning to any animals or birds of prey
 - c. No risk of contamination to crops or food
 - d. Completely biodegradable; zero environmental pollution
2. **ContraPest** is available at [CONTRAPESTSTORE.COM](https://www.contrapeststore.com)



ContraPest is the first EPA-registered contraceptive for both male and female rats developed by rat fertility control scientists to create healthy environments by virtually eliminating rat pest populations. Designed to restrict fertility in both sexes.

Left unchecked, two adult rats can be responsible for the birth of up to 15,000 descendants after a year. In other words, all it takes is two rats to bring an infestation back to its original size or larger. ContraPest works by counteracting this rebound effect, significantly reducing their ability to reproduce.

contrapest IT'S BIRTH CONTROL FOR RATS, AND IT WORKS.

- Combats bait aversion. Reduces individual rodents fertility quickly.
- Low exposure risk to pets/children. Easy to set up/replace tanks.
- Minimizes population rebound effect.