



RATS AND MICE AND RODENTS - OH MY!

The City of Auburn has adopted a number of city codes and ordinances, the rules and regulations that help keep our community safe and a desirable place to live. One way the City ensures the protection of public health, and limits the impact of rodents in our community is the enforcement of Chapter 8.12 – the city code that regulates conditions considered to be a public nuisance, not the rodents themselves.



Your Mayor and City Council value your community pride and dedication to Auburn!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit AuburnWa.gov/CodeCompliance or call 253-931-3020, select option #4

Community Development & Public Works
25 W Main Street | Auburn, WA 98001

RATS, MICE, AND RODENTS

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
& PUBLIC WORKS





There are several types of rodents that live in Washington State. Some bring us enjoyment like squirrels, while others such as mice and rats can damage property, contaminate food, and are responsible for the transmission of many diseases. These types of rodents are very secretive and prefer to hide, leaving behind a wake of destruction. Holes gnawed into walls and floorboards, the presence of smudge marks along frequently traveled routes, and droppings are the tell-tale signs that they have been to your home. By the time you actually see the culprit, you may already be dealing with a significant infestation.

The two species of rats typically found in our area are the Norway and Roof rats. The Norway rat is stocky and weighs about a pound, making it slightly larger than the Roof rat. They have coarse fur that is typically brown or reddish gray and sometimes are referred to as a brown rat, house, barn, or sewer rat. They prefer to make their homes in places they can burrow like in trash or wood piles, gardens, fields, or spaces beneath your home.

Roof rats are smaller in size, but are capable of causing similar damage. Typically brown or black in color, these pesky rodents are excellent climbers and will be found nesting above ground; climbing trees to seek shelter in elevated places such as upper parts of buildings, attics and cupboards. If unable to seek shelter in a building or home, they will also be found in shrubs, trees and dense vegetation.

The solution to living in harmony with these creatures native to our environment: **Prevention, Elimination, and Maintenance.**

PREVENTION

Knowing where they live and where their food source is coming from is an important first step in the process. Take a look at your home and property to determine what may be attracting rodents to your location. Overgrown vegetation, accumulation of junk, trash, garbage or litter that is not properly disposed of becomes a haven for rodents and must be addressed immediately. Additionally, if you have wood piles, fruit that has fallen from trees, bird feeders, pet food not properly stored, or garbage cans and composting bins that are not rodent resistant, you have essentially created a buffet for rodents. This is why the City of Auburn and your code enforcement officers stress the importance of proper maintenance of your home and property so as not to create an attractant. Remove the food source, eliminate their nesting options and they will move on to seek food and shelter elsewhere.

ELIMINATION

Once you identify and remove the rodent's basic needs, you may want to consider using traps or bait to quickly remove any rodents that remain. Traps and glue boards can be affective devices in the home, while bait is a good option outdoors. It is important to remember that the measures you take to eliminate rodents can also have a negative impact on your pets and other wildlife, especially when using bait. Some bait must be eaten over a series of days before they take effect while others may be effective after just one dose. Read labels carefully and take the proper precautions, such as only using bait in a bait station, which can prevent an unintentional poisoning of your pets or young children. An online search or the yellow pages are a great way to locate a pest control company or exterminator who can assess the degree of infestation and specialize in the proper elimination and removal techniques. Some will even provide a free estimate.

MAINTENANCE

You have taken the necessary steps of prevention and elimination; now you must keep doing the work. Ongoing, routine yard maintenance and proper disposal of trash, litter and debris is the key to preventing rodents from coming back. There may be changes in our environment that are outside of our control, such as a recent land clearing that may stir up the rodent population. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of individual property owners to ensure the conditions of their home and property are not creating a public nuisance and attracting rodents. Take the steps necessary to limit your exposure and minimize the damage these uninvited visitors can cause.

HOW TO REPORT CONCERNS:

ONLINE: www.auburnwa.gov/reporting

MOBILE: Download the YourGOV app for Apple and Android devices

EMAIL: codeenforcement@auburnwa.gov

PHONE: 253-931-3020 option # 4

IN PERSON: Customer Service Center, 1 East Main St., 2nd Floor