

## **RAT PREVENTION: TIPS AND TRICKS**

### **Signs of Rodent Activity**

- Partially eaten fruits
- Signs of gnawing on plastic, wood, or rubber material
- Greasy rub marks on painted surfaces or wooden beams
- Gnawing sounds emitted from attic or wall space areas
- Visual sightings in nearby exterior areas, such as utility cables, trees, or the tops of fences
- Burrows in the ground, especially adjacent to sewer lines
- Observation of droppings. Rat feces is ½ inch or greater in length; roof rat droppings are pointed in shape, while the Norway rat's waste is rounded at each end.

### **Prevention Strategies**

- Remove obvious food sources, such as bird seed, unsealed pet containers, and fallen tree fruit.
- Only store garbage and rubbish in tightly sealed, rat-proof containers.
- Promptly remove pet feces from exterior premises.
- Repair or replace any faucets, sprinklers, or downspouts that are causing stagnant water to collect on the property.
- Seal any openings in the exterior of the structure that are greater than ¼ inch in diameter.
- Replace damaged wire vent screens.
- Store wood piles at least 18 inches above the ground and at least 12 inches away from any structure, fence, or wall.
- Remove thick vegetation away from buildings and fences.
- Do not plant ivy or any similar climbing plants.