

Rodent Management for New York City Facilities that Handle, Serve or Store Food*

NYC Department of Health Pest Control Services

Overview

Any building that handles food may attract rats and mice. *This can include grocery stores, bodegas, cafeterias, group homes, restaurants, senior centers, and soup kitchens. The presence of rodents inside and outside these facilities can be prevented and managed — we will tell you how. In New York City, food handlers are vulnerable to infestation because:

- Space is very limited, with tightly packed storage and clutter.
- Stores are often connected to other buildings. Rodents in nearby buildings can enter through utility systems such as sewers and sub-surface utility conduits shared by buildings.
- Stores may be in older buildings, which have more cracks and crevices, making it easier for rodents to enter.

Preventing and Managing Rodents

- **Rodent Proofing (stoppage)**

Seal or block openings through which rodents can enter and travel, such as:

- Doors
- Utility wires and cords that go through walls
- Holes and breaks within walls, floors and ceilings connecting to other buildings

Business owners and managers should take the initiative and seal up as many rodent entry points as possible. However, a pest management professional can help you by doing a more thorough survey of your building as well as using more effective rodent proofing materials and techniques.

Don't look for the "cheapest bidder"—you want to make sure the job is done right. The Health Department will help you select a pest management professional at www.nyc.gov/rats.



Inspect the following areas very carefully to monitor for rodents:

- Delivery/receiving areas
- Basement, storage or stock rooms
- Walls and ceilings of store cooler and freezer boxes
- Store's perimeter refrigeration units and refrigeration line chase rooms
- Soft goods aisles and displays (cereals, rice, candy, cookies and pasta)
- Deli and bakery
- Sub-flooring wire chases
- Vending machines
- Elevated floor voids.

- **Some Pest Control Options:**
 - Non-chemical pest control (snap traps, and multiple catch traps for mice)
 - Chemical approaches such as US EPA approved rodenticide baits, which are effective against rats and mice inside and outside grocery stores. ***You must hire a NYS DEC certified professionals to do this.***
- **Watch Where Your Garbage Goes — if you don't, the rats will!**

If rodents cannot find food and shelter they cannot multiply — good clean-up and storage of food waste is critical. All outside garbage areas, including dumpsters, compactors, and trash cans, must be as neat and clean as possible.

Avoid any kind of food spillage, which can attract rodents. These areas should be inspected daily by store personnel and by the pest management professionals when they visit.



For more information about Pest Management and how to find professional exterminators, visit:

New York City Rat Information Portal: <http://www.nyc.gov/rats>

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation:
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/298.html>

US Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/controlling/index.htm>