

Caution Advised Always!



The common house mouse is different from a roof rat. When using methods of eradication, it is critical to always follow the warning labels and read instructions.

Contact a pest control company who is knowledgeable about roof rats or visit the pest control referral section on the Arcadia Neighborhood's website on roof rats at www.roofrat.net.

According to the Arcadia Neighborhood, bait stations are the most effective method for eliminating and controlling roof rats, especially when they are used in conjunction with snap traps.

Bait stations should be placed in trees or along suspected paths of travel for the best success in fighting roof rats. For more info contact Arcadia Neighborhood helpline at 602-273-0435 or visit: www.roofrat.net under "eRatication".



Oh no,
I think
they're on
to me!



Don't let Roof Rats take over your neighborhood. Help increase awareness by distributing informational flyers to your neighbors. Visit the Neighborhood Outreach Office website for materials.



Neighborhood Outreach Office
20 E. Main St. Ste. 250
PO Box 1466
480-644-5700
www.mesaaz.gov/neighbor/roofrats.aspx

OH RATS!

Keeping roof rats off your property and out of your neighborhood

"The first step to controlling rats is through education. Second step is collaboration".

- Neighborhood Outreach Office





Roof Rat Prevention

If you discovered roof rats (a.k.a. black rats) on your property, then chances are they're in your neighborhood. While mice can be a single household problem, roof rats are a community problem. It may take a community effort to effectively reduce food and nesting sites for these rats.

Roof rats are regarded as pests, nuisances, especially since they carry diseases. Keeping your community informed and sharing roof rat facts about the destructive behavior of these rodents is a proactive way to begin working with your neighbors.

The first step in controlling a roof rat infestation is to properly identify the rodents, making sure they're not "pack rats". Roof rats have hairless, scaly tails that are longer than their head and body. They are nocturnal and excellent climbers. They leave oily marks on walls and dwell most commonly in attics or ceilings of buildings. Roof rats can easily slip through holes as small as the size of a nickel.

FAQ's

Q: I see rats on my property but I'm not sure if they're roof rats? What do I do?

A: Call the Maricopa County Environmental Complaint Line at 602-506-6616 or file a complaint on the website. Vector Control officers identify and test rat specimens throughout Maricopa County.

Q: When do roof rats travel?

A: During twilight and nighttime hours in a territory 200 to 300 feet from their daytime nesting locations. They thrive in cool weather and are most active from November through May.

Visit: www.maricopa.gov/EnvSvc/VectorControl/RR/RRFAQ.aspx

1. Get rid of the roof rats food supply by harvesting citrus and other fruit.

Harvest citrus and nut trees at maturity (ripe), watch for hollowed out fruit, and pick up any fallen fruit. Do this promptly and completely each year. Fruit and nut trees are a favorite of the roof rat. Keep trees trimmed and away from roofs, houses, fences, and power lines.

You can donate any excess fruit your family won't be able to use to local food banks. Next winter, when the roof rats are under control or eradicated altogether, enjoy your harvest, but be sure to pick your fruit promptly and donate or dispose of what you can't use. You don't need to remove fruit trees from your landscape to prevent roof rats.

2. Manicuring and maintaining your yard is important

A clean yard is a deterrent. Rake under your trees and shrubbery. Prune fruit trees so the ground under them is open and visible. Thin oleanders and clean debris underneath. Remove wood piles and brush piles from your yard.

Store wood and lumber piles at least 18 inches above the ground and 12 inches away from walls. Trim trees 24" away from every roof edge. Remove any sources of standing water such as dog bowls or puddles. Repair outdoor leaky faucets.

3. Don't feed rats unknowingly

Roof rats will eat ANYTHING to survive, including pet food and garbage. Don't leave pet food out, especially overnight. Keep dog feces picked up. Keep garbage containers covered tightly and store all bulk food in sealed, rat proof containers. Close off all possible entry points to your home.



Important Facts To Remember About Roof Rats

- They are nocturnal. Roof rats sleep during the day and are active at night.
- They can chew up wiring, plumbing, and insulation. Roof rats love citrus.
- Roof rats can enter your home through small openings and climb through roof penetrations and vents.
- Roof rats are most likely to take refuse in your attic, but will nest in brush, cacti, shrubs, trees, and garbage.

Resources

Bait stations can be purchased at several valley locations. Contact Arcadia, Neighbor to Neighbor Campaign at 602.273.0435 or visit: www.roofrat.net

For additional information on roof rats contact:

- Maricopa County at 602.506.6616 or visit: www.maricopa.gov/EnvSvc/VectorControl/RR/RRPrevention.aspx

Maricopa County does not provide bait stations or traps to the public.

Brochure provided by the City of Mesa's Neighborhood Outreach Office. For more info on Roof Rats contact Maricopa County Vector Control at 602-506-6616.

