



## TOWN OF BROOKLINE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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## BROOKLINE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

# NOTICE

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Summer is here, which means many outdoor activities such as festivals, picnics, and outdoor dining. These events contribute to the prevalence of rats in public places, businesses, and homes. This is a public health concern, and the Brookline Department of Public Health (BDPH) carries out several initiatives to help combat rodent activity. We are working along side other Town of Brookline departments, residents, and business owners to further our understandings of rat behavior and the steps we can take to minimize the presence and impact of rodents on our community. Our efforts range from treating public properties, enforcing the state sanitary codes to ensure best practices, enforcement of Town by-laws to improve trash management and pest control, and education. However, we all have responsibilities to the environment where we live and work. Our efforts can only be effective if we work together.

Below are some steps and tips that you can use to help minimize rodent activity in your neighborhood:

- Store rubbish/garbage in covered containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Inspect the exterior of your property to check if rodents are gaining access to or around the building. Any openings around doors, windows, drains, or cracks in foundations should be sealed.
- Should it appear that rodents are gaining access to or around your property, you should obtain the services of a licensed extermination company to carry out integrated pest management techniques. (loose poison is prohibited in the Town of Brookline).
- Remove weeds and debris near buildings and yards.
- Stack lumber and boxes on a rack with a clean open area underneath. Get rid of unused materials.
- Do not place bird food on the ground, and clean daily any spillage.
- Clean animal waste from property frequently.
- When dining in our parks and open spaces carry out any waste that does not fit in a waste bin. Do not leave oversized items (i.e. pizza boxes) on the ground or stacked on top of trash cans.

If the BDPH identifies conditions that contribute to rodent activity, we will send a rodent abatement notification to businesses, property managers, or owners, then follow up with a compliance inspection seven business days after the notification. Non-compliance may result in enforceable actions, ranging from fines, closure of business, or court order.

To file a rodent concern or complaint, please email [RatReports@brooklinema.gov](mailto:RatReports@brooklinema.gov). If you prefer to verbally file your complaint, please call 617-730-2308 and leave a message with the specific location, including address, if possible.