

RATS AND VERMIN—A CONTINUING ISSUE

The presence of rats, mice, squirrels, skunks, and other vermin are nothing new. They share our space and have always been around – sometimes more widespread, sometimes less.

To thrive, these rodents and pest need two things available to them:

1. Food source (and water).
2. Shelter.

Food Source – Rats and vermin feed on the following:

1. Pet food left outside or made accessible in a garage or shed.
2. Pet waste – yes, pet waste, not cleaned up is a food source for rats.
3. Bird feeders, squirrel food, bread, peanuts, popcorn etc. Much of that food put out for the “friends” you enjoy, winds up feeding rats and vermin.
4. Home vegetable gardens.
5. Household trash put out overnight in **bags** (instead of solid trash cans).
6. Check your plastic garbage cans to see if there is a small entry hole on the bottom for vermin.

Rats are unable to enter metal cans with secured lids.

Shelter – Rats, vermin and pests will make a home in:

1. Debris, wood on the ground, trash, tires, building materials.
2. Accessory buildings or garages or slabs without rat wall protection – they can burrow under the slab and create a rat or pest “hotel.”
3. Skirted decks and decks low to the ground – while they may be attractive, these decks can also provide living space for critters.
4. Holes in your foundation, home, garage or shed that lets them “bunk” with you.

Take away the food and shelter and the rats, vermin and pests will not come around.

If there is an infestation, **professional exterminators must be utilized** – you do not want the vermin to go elsewhere. **Homeowners** are responsible for this clean up.

Complaints regarding Rats and Vermin can be made:

- Online Form: <https://livonia.gov/FormCenter/Inspection-Ordinance-12/Ordinance-Enforcement-66>
- QR Code:

