

## ***Prevention & Control***

As it is with most pest infestations, the best form of control is **prevention**. Rodents unfortunately can be a common issue in any established neighborhood. Their ability and instinct to find and gain access to a home, garage, or yard is far easier than expected.

***Rodents are looking for three key sources when searching for a livable environment: food, water, and shelter.*** Finding how the rodents are accessing the space is an important measure, but be sure to remove the rodent infestation before closing up the access routes. Baiting for rodents may take time, due to a rodents being weary of changing surroundings.

Classic snap rat traps and Have-A Heart© traps are available in stores. Classic rat traps may catch a few in the beginning, but may not resolve the issue if the rodent population is strong, where source reduction and baits will.

***Any form of rodenticide should be followed to label specifications, and should be inaccessible to both pets and children. Always read the label before baiting.***

## ***Environmental Services***

419 N. Armistead Ave.  
Hampton, VA 23669

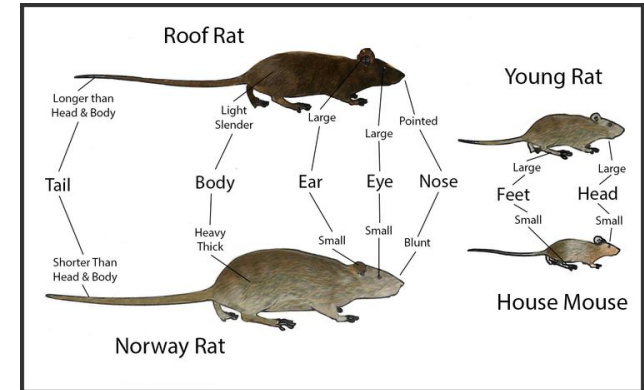
***Need more information?***

***Dial 311 on any phone in Hampton or dial 727-8311***

<http://hampton.gov/mosquito>



*We are active in local, state, regional, and national organizations to bring Hampton the best environmental services program possible.*



## ***City of Hampton Environmental Services***



## ***Rodent Info***

## Roof Rats (Black Rat)

Roof Rats can be easily identified if seen in or around a home. The first clue would be where the rat is seen. Roof rats, like their name, tend to be up in higher places, along rafters, in trees, or crawling along a ledge high up in the garage. Their tail is longer than their bodies, and they use it to balance themselves, as well as a fifth limb to grab. Roof rats also have large ears, eyes, and a pointy snout.

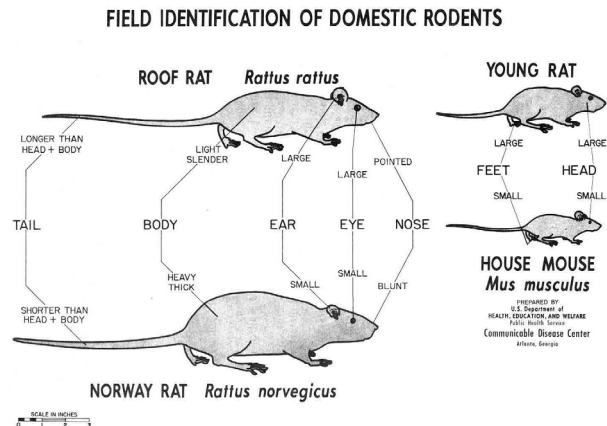
Bait placement may be a bit trickier when dealing with roof rats, and make sure to seal off entry ways along the rooftops after the infestation is gone. A hole the size of your thumb is a good comparison to what it takes for the rodent to enter.

*As with the Norway rat, the Roof Rat depends on food, water, and shelter. Make sure to store grass & bird seed in sealed containers and also pick up after your pets!*



## Rodent Comparison

Smaller rodents can be easily misidentified due to their similar characteristics. Identification of the pest problem should always be the first step in control. Misidentifying what type of rat may cause unnecessary costs and time. Below is a chart which identifies key characteristics of the two main types of rats, and also compares the juvenile rat to a typical house mouse.



If visual identification cannot be made, simply looking at the habitat or habits of the rodents should give you an idea of which rodent is causing the problem. Rodents are creatures of habit, and therefore tend to use the same path to look for food, water, and shelter. If a rodent is seen above head (up high) possibly running across beams, the most likely is the Roof Rat. If a path is along the ground or floorboards (down low) your problem is most likely a Norway Rat.

## Norway Rats (Brown Rat)

Norway Rats are as common, if not more common as their cousins the Roof Rat. They burrow in the ground, rub marks can be seen around the perimeter, and usually build their home inside or alongside an area that supplies food and water. They are slightly bigger on average than the roof rat, and have a shorter tail. Their ears and eyes are small in comparison, and they have a blunt nose.

Bait placement should be alongside the perimeter of the structure. Unless scared, Norway Rats do not like to be out in the open. Be persistent in control measures, as rodents may be hesitant before taking bait. Make sure to seal the entry ways after baiting is successful.

*As with the Roof Rat, the Norway Rat depends on food, water, and shelter. Make sure to store grass & bird seed in sealed containers and also pick up after your pets!*

