

RATS



Do you believe you have a problem with rats??

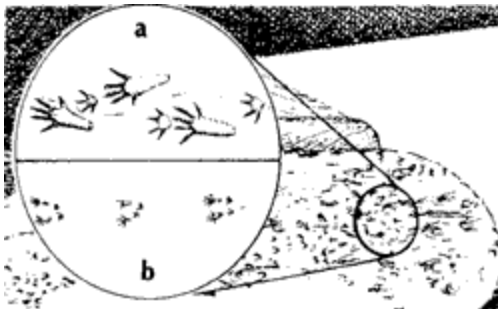
Look for these signs:

- Rat feces, pellets



- Tracks, or footprints

If the area you suspect is not wet and moist so that tracks are easily identifiable, you can use a thin coating of flour or talc powder to possibly see footprints.



- **Gnawing Damage**

Rats commonly gnaw on wooden structures, such as wall studs, joists, and door corners. Newer gnaw marks have rougher edges than older ones. Gnawing may be indicated by woodchips around baseboard, doors, basement windows and frames, kitchen cabinets, furniture, clothes, stored materials, around pipes in floors and walls, and wherever rats might try to enlarge a crack or crevice or enter something.



- **Burrows**

Rats tend to burrow along foundations and walls, and underneath debris or shrubbery.

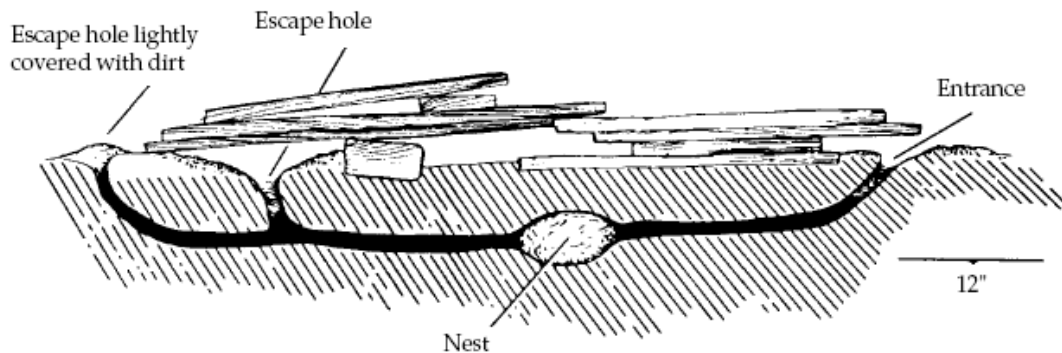


Fig. 3. Norway rat burrow system beneath a pile of boards.



- **Runways**

Rats will run between nesting areas and feeding areas. Depending greatly on their memory, they will use the same path over and over. Outside, you can look for a packed pathway or narrow path in dense vegetation. Inside, rats use walls as guidance. An indoor path can be noticed by greasy or dirty smudge marks along the walls, pipes, beams, and rafters.

- **"Grease" Marks**

Runway markings, "grease marks" can be found along pipes, beams, vertical surfaces, and around rafters. Active runways will not have dust or cobwebs.



- **Urine Stains**

Urine stains from rats are visible in a UV black light. You may notice a musky scent.



- You may also hear sounds of rodents in your walls, attic, and crawl spaces. If you have pets, they may act excited or upset in the presence of rodents.

