

BOSTON RODENT ACTION PLAN (BRAP)

Mayor Michelle Wu recently announced the launch of the [Boston Rodent Action Plan \(BRAP\)](#), a new coordinated, multi-agency initiative to mitigate the rodent population in Boston and maintain an excellent quality of life established for Boston residents, families, and visitors. The City of Boston also released the BRAP report detailing the factors contributing to the rodent population in the city.

BRAP REPORT

The report highlights various causes and effects of rodent infestation, including poor trash mitigation, storage, and removal. Given its position as one of the oldest cities in the Northeast, it also outlines Boston's infrastructure as an inherent factor that significantly influences the rodent population. This, coupled with densely populated neighborhoods, intertwining alleyways, old sewer systems, and century-old cobble or brick streets and sidewalks, provide an environment for rodents to thrive.

ACTION ITEMS


What will the city do?


- Build on the City's ongoing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach which stresses addressing the environmental root causes
- Ensure the goal of rat management is preventative instead of reactionary
- Target efforts utilizing data related to complaints, inspections technology to target efforts
- Establish a Priority Action Neighborhood (PAN) plan for the top 3-5 most afflicted neighborhoods to reduce rodent hot spots
- Incorporate specialized infrastructure-specific rat control for parks, sewers, alleys, and major construction zones
- Move towards alternative baits and other effective tools for controlling rats that do not present environmental threats to wildlife

CONTACT

 [Boston.gov/environmental-sanitation](https://www.boston.gov/environmental-sanitation)

 ISDenvironmental@boston.gov

 Tel. 617-961-3422

 1010 Mass Ave. 4th Flr.
Boston, MA 02118

CITY of **BOSTON**

PEST MANAGEMENT



City of Boston
Inspectional Services
4944-01

FUNCTIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION

- Rapidly respond to rodent and trash complaints
- Emergency trapping and rodent baiting
- Monitors and treats rodent activity on city property
- Review construction plans and rodent control specifications
- Inspect and monitor all permitted construction sites
- Enforce the State Sanitary Code
- Site Cleanliness Enforcement

DOCUMENTING RODENT SIGHTINGS

Upon receiving a complaint, an Environmental Health Inspector will inspect the property and adjacent area to identify the food source and the exact area of infestation.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Our department's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program utilizes several rodent control methods to keep the rodent population low. Inspectors are utilizing Burrow RX, Carbon Dioxide Tank (CO2), and Cheetah 2-cycle engine.

VIOLATION

If an infestation is found, abatement notices will be written and served to the property owner/manager. A compliance inspection will be conducted within 7-10 business days after the initial inspection.

HEARINGS

If the violation(s) is not corrected, a notice to appear at an Administrative Hearing will be served upon the owner/manager of the property. During the hearing an Inspector will describe the property's conditions, The property owner/manager will be allowed to discuss how they will bring the property up to code. The Hearing Officer will take all testimony into consideration and render his/her decision within seven days.

CONSTRUCTION SITES

In accordance with Massachusetts Building Code, section 108.6; Massachusetts State Sanitary Code, Ch. 1, 105 CMR400.100 and Ch. II, 105CMR 410.550 and the City of Boston Code, Ordinance Chapter 16-Section 31 and Ch. 9, Section 1.2, it is established that the control or rodent infestation is a precondition for the issuance of a building permit to do work.

RODENT PREVENTION

- Keep unit clean
- Seal holes around pipes
- Keep the yard clean, cut grass
- Store garbage in metal or heavy plastic containers with tight-fitting lids
- Do not leave pet food outside
- Place bird food in a feeder and clean spillage daily
- Clean animal waste

Hire a licensed, insured pest control company that is familiar with IPM (integrated pest management) techniques.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Norway Rat (*Rattus Norvegicus*) is the most common in the North East Region
- Slightly heavy set, blackish/brown
- Generally live for one year, at which time they can have six to twelve "pups" per litter, up to seven times a year.
- Burrow in the ground, under buildings and rubbish
- Require roughly one ounce of food a day and a half ounce of water.
- Jumps up to three feet
- Climb wires and pipe very well.
- Can carry disease