

Seal Gaps & Entry Points

Rats can enter openings as small as 1/2 inch (roughly the size of a quarter). Sealing entry points provides permanent, long-term protection.

- **Inspect Foundation Openings:** Check foundation sills, basement window frames, and gaps around utility penetrations (AC lines, gas pipes, and dryer vents).
- **Use Gnaw-Resistant Materials:** Seal gaps with 1/4-inch galvanized hardware cloth or stainless steel mesh secured with outdoor sealant. Standard expanding foam alone offers little protection against chewing.
- **Install Sturdy Door Sweeps:** Fit exterior doors with durable, metal-backed weather sweeps flush to the threshold. Check that garage door rubber seals make full contact with the ground.
- **Check Basement Bulkheads:** Inspect metal bulkhead doors for rust spots or gaps along the frame and ground seals.



Pack utility voids with stainless mesh and seal tightly with outdoor sealant.

Stronger Neighborhoods Start With Clean Streets

Rodent management is a shared neighborhood effort. One unsecured food source can support a colony that affects the entire street.

How You Can Help

- **Report Municipal Sanitation Concerns:** Contact East Providence Public Works / Code Enforcement at [Insert City Contact / Portal Link] to report overflowing commercial dumpsters or illegal dumping.
- **Join Operation Litterbug:** Help keep our public spaces clean and vector-free. Take part in our semi-annual community cleanups—Trashapalooza in the spring and Halloclean in the fall.
- **Access the Online Guide:** Scan the QR code below to view the full digital IPM toolkit, read local sanitation ordinances, and check upcoming event dates.

[PLACEHOLDER: QR CODE TO CITY IPM PAGE / EVENT SCHEDULE]

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Published as a public service for the residents of East Providence.



OPERATION LITTERBUG

KEEPING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS CLEAN & HEALTHY

A Resident's Guide to Long-Term Rodent Prevention

Simple, science-backed Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices to reduce rodent populations, discourage nesting, and protect our community.

A Collaborative Community Sanitation Initiative



guardianpestri.com/about-us/community-outreach

Remove Easy Food Sources

Norway rats need only an ounce of food and water each day. Unsecured household waste is their primary food source in residential areas.

- **Lids Down, Fully Closed:** City-supplied trash bins should remain completely closed at all times. Overfilled bins with propped lids invite unwanted pests.
- **No Overnight Bagging:** Avoid leaving plastic trash bags outside of bins or sitting curbside overnight. Thin plastic offers no protection against gnawing teeth.
- **Keep Bins Clean:** Periodically rinse out organic residue and grease from your city-supplied trash bins. Food odors can attract foraging pests from several blocks away.
- **Dumpster Best Practices:** Keep dumpster side doors closed, lids shut, and make sure drain plugs are firmly in place.

Minimize Backyard Food & Water

Rats only settle where food and water are easily accessible. Small, everyday backyard items often sustain neighborhood pest activity.

- **Manage Bird Feeders:** Spilled birdseed is a primary attractant. If rodent activity is reported nearby, temporarily take down feeders or install seed trays and sweep fallen hulls daily, or switch to commercial capsaicin-treated (hot pepper) seed.
- **Feed Pets Indoors:** Keep pet bowls inside, and avoid leaving uneaten food on decks, patios, or porches overnight.
- **Pick Up Pet Waste:** Clean up dog waste promptly. Waste contains nutrients that can sustain rodents when other food sources are secured.
- **Gardens & Fruit Trees:** Harvest garden vegetables as soon as they ripen and collect fallen fruit from the ground before evening.
- **Address Standing Water:** Repair leaky outdoor spigots, refresh birdbath water regularly, and ensure gutters and downspouts direct water away from structures.

Discourage Hiding & Nesting Spots

Rats seek out dense, undisturbed areas to dig burrows. Maintaining open, tidy yards makes properties far less hospitable to them.

- **Maintain an 18-Inch Buffer:** Trim shrubs, low branches, and decorative grasses so the ground underneath is visible. Keep an 18-inch clear corridor between plants and your foundation.
- **Manage Thick Ground Cover:** Thin out dense plants like heavy ivy near foundations, which can hide active burrow openings from view.
- **Elevate Stored Materials:** Stack firewood, lumber, and outdoor gear at least 12 inches off the ground and away from walls or fences.
- **Clear Yard Debris:** Dispose of yard waste piles, unused brush, and scrap materials that offer sheltered nesting areas.



Ground-contact wood and debris piles create prime burrowing sites. Keep materials elevated.