

Technical Guide about pest encountered in KAUST and how it is being controlled.

RODENT (RATS) : Facts and Notes | Control | Prevention

Facts and Notes

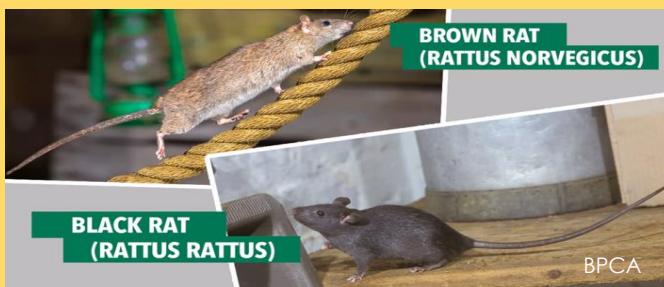
Rodents, particularly rats, are closely linked to humans. That's because people and their dwellings provide them with the things, they need most to thrive.

Rats are commonly known as scavengers, and they don't need much to survive. The 3 basic things they do need to survive, are things that humans also have/need. Humans provide the three essential things rats need to live:

Food: Rats will eat pretty much anything and are known for scavenging through trashcans to find food or eating leftovers in your kitchen.

Water: Rats can survive for up to 4 weeks without directly drinking water because they absorb most of their water intake from the foods that they eat.

Shelter: Not surprisingly, rats are constantly searching for a safe place to call home. They are looking for protection from predators, but they are also looking for somewhere warm, which is why you'll notice an uptick in rodent activity in the Winter!



Pest Control procedures in managing pests

1. Assess and conduct thorough inspection of the building. Check for signs of activity like droppings, urine and gnawed object. Locate food source, harborage location, and areas for control and proofing.
2. Implement control following the applicable IPM principles, starting with;
 - **Cultural control** – clean the area. Reduce clutters, remove food source.
 - **Mechanical control** - use cage or glue traps (Catch Master) at the areas where there are signs of activity. But carry assessment first for non-targets animals. Call Maintenance to seal entry points.
 - **Chemical control** – rodenticides are sometimes needed to get rid of pest. Following product label claims, use the approved Brigand D Paste - Difenacoum 0.005% (WHO Class: Ia, Local Reg.: 152-143-1371) in baiting. But ensure that it will be placed only at secured rodent bait station or at a closed manholes. Programmed baiting at manholes is highly recommended. Do it at least every 4 months.
3. Monitor the condition after applying the control and keep record for tracking.



What you can do to prevent rodents at home

- Clean and secure food at sealed container. Food and water attracts rodents.
- Reduce clutter and vegetation, remove debris. Rodents love messy areas so they can hide their activity.
- Look around your house and check for cracks and holes. Those spots must be sealed. Call maintenance for help.
- If you noticed signs of rodent activity, contact Helpdesk (959) immediately for pest control assistance.