

## **KEEP THE RATS AWAY!**

No one likes the thought of rats living in or near their property. So what can you do to help keep the rats away? There are three main ways to prevent and control rodents:

### **SEAL THEM OUT**

### **STARVE THEM OUT AND**

### **CORRECT PROBLEMS WHICH ATTRACT THEM**

The success of a rodent control program is dependent upon the cooperation of EVERY community member. Since rats move from one place to another, it is essential that we all correct physical conditions contributing to rodent problems and be alert for signs of their occurrence. The rodent knows no boundary lines and only you and your neighbor can control their presence in the community.

### **So as you begin to clean up for spring, don't forget to:**

- Practice good sanitation and housekeeping to reduce rats' sources of food, water and shelter.
- Keep garbage and refuse in tightly covered, rigid containers. Rats can easily eat through plastic bags.
- Keep areas near bird feeders, rabbit hutches, etc., clean and orderly.
- Promptly clean up any spilled birdseed from the ground.
- Store grass seed, plant bulbs and other garden materials in rigid containers.
- Keep pet foods stored in closed, rigid containers. Don't feed pets more than they will eat at a single time. Avoid putting pet food and other foodstuffs outside. Remove pet feces promptly as this is also a rodent food source.
- Limit compost items to yard debris, such as grass clippings, leaves, flowers, house plants, annual weeds, twigs, chopped hedge prunings. Do not pile wood or garden debris against house walls. Store materials 12 to 18 inches off the ground.
- Seal all possible openings or entries into your house (duct lines, sewer lines, external drains, etc.). Rodents can fit through a space the size of a quarter.
- Remove all outside standing water that may have accumulated in buckets, tires, children's toys, etc.

If you have any questions or specific problems in regard to rodents please call the Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission at 201-445-7217.