

HOW DO I REPORT A VIOLATION?

If you are aware of a property in Henrico County that is in violation of this ordinance, please call the Division of Community Maintenance hotline at (804) 501-4757. **The hotline is available to address your concerns 24 hours per day.** When you call to report a problem, you will be required to give your name and telephone number. **This information is kept confidential and will not be released under any circumstances.** It will be used only when County staff require additional information to investigate the case or to update complainants of the status of their concerns.

24 Hour Hotline: (804) 501-4757

For more information or to report violations, please visit our website:

www.co.henrico.va.us/maint



Proud of our progress;
Excited about our future.

STATS ABOUT RATS

It is difficult to rat-proof a structure without first knowing the capabilities of rats. When rat-proofing, remember rats are acrobats. Here are some of the amazing things rats can do:

- **Reach about 13 inches in length**
- **Gain entrance** through openings as small as only 1/2 inch square
- **Walk horizontal** wires and **climb vertical** wires
- **Climb the outside** of vertical pipes with diameters as large as 3 inches
- **Climb the outside** of vertical conduits of any size if they are within 3 inches of a wall
- **Crawl horizontally** on any type of pipe or conduit
- **Jump vertically** as high as 36 inches from a horizontal surface
- **Jump horizontally** 48 inches on a flat surface
- **Jump horizontally** at least 8 feet from an elevation of 15 feet
- **Drop** 50 feet and survive
- **Swim** as far as 1/2 mile
- **Gnaw** through a wide variety of materials



Revised Spring 2012

County of Henrico, Virginia



Rodent Ordinance



Department of Community Revitalization

P.O. Box 90775
Henrico, VA 23273-0775
Phone: (804) 501-4757
Fax: (804) 501-7630

www.co.henrico.va.us/maint

MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of Community Revitalization coordinates the County's programs and services intended to promote healthy, vibrant, and attractive residential, commercial, and industrial communities.

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE

The Division works cooperatively with citizens through education, volunteer assistance, and communication to gain voluntary compliance with County codes to promote a healthier and safer environment. The Division's motto is: "Service through communication and care"

PURPOSE OF BROCHURE

This brochure contains information about rodents and how to prevent them from infesting your property. By law, Henrico County requires property owners to maintain their property in a rat-free condition.

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER

Poisoning and trapping alone cannot control rats. If you have an infestation of rats, you must **remove all sources of food, water, and harborage for effective control.**

HENRICO COUNTY CODE

Section 10-167 of the Henrico County Code states "it shall be the duty of each owner or occupant to keep his building and premises rat-proofed, freed of rats, and maintained in a rat-proof and rat-free condition and to eradicate any rat harborage.

HOW DO RATS ENTER YOUR HOME?

- Chimneys
- Roof Ventilation
- Gable Vents
- Point of entry of phone and electric lines
- Overhanging tree branches
- Broken or open doors
- Torn window screens
- Crawl spaces under houses
- Damaged walls or floors
- Broken sewer pipes
- Point of entry of pipes
- Rotted or damaged wood



HOW CAN I PREVENT RAT PROBLEMS?

Remove sources of food. One ounce of dry food is all a rat requires per day.

Pick up your pets' droppings. Rats can subsist on dog droppings when no other food is available. After feeding and watering your pets, remove bowls and store food in a metal container.

Don't put bread or seed on the ground. If you feed squirrels or birds, you may also be feeding the rats.

Use metal trash cans with lids. Rats can gnaw through plastic garbage cans.

Harvest vegetable gardens as soon as they are ripe.

Remove sources of water (bird baths, pet water bowls, standing water in splash basins, etc). Rats require only 1/2 to 1 ounce of water per day.

Remove rat shelters. Keep wood piles elevated 12-18 inches and away from walls. Steps leading into a house should be masonry or concrete. If they are made of wood, keep the space underneath bare.