

# Brown Rat

**AKA:** Rat, Sewer Rat, Field Rat, Common Rat, Norway Rat, etc.

**Scientific Classification:** Animalia, Chordata, Vertebrata, Mammalia, Rodentia, Muridae, Murinae, *Rattus*, *R. norvegicus*.

**Size & Markings:** The brown rat's fur is coarse and usually brown or dark grey, with lighter grey or brown bellies. They can be 10 inches long with the tail the same length as the body. Adult males weigh up to 1-1/2 pounds with the female weighing just under 1 pound. Stories of rats as big as cats are just myths.

**Habitat:** With very few exceptions, where there are humans, there are brown rats. Rats spread to new areas by stowing away in shipments of food or equipment. Rats usually live in close proximity to humans and can usually be found in places that provide both shelter from the elements and a source of food. Rats are burrowers. Breeding pairs dig furiously to expand the tunnel system to include multiple levels, chambers and alternate entrances.

**Life Cycle:** Brown rats breed throughout the year. Given suitable conditions, rats can produce 5 to 10 litters every year with up to 14 young in each litter. Each of those offspring can reproduce after just 5 weeks. Left unchecked - each breeding pair can produce as many as 2,000 offspring per year. Most brown rats live about a year.

**Food:** The brown rat is a true omnivore and will consume almost anything, but cereals (grains and seeds) form a substantial part of its diet. A study of the brown rat diet concluded that the most-liked foods include scrambled eggs, macaroni and cheese, and cooked corn kernels. Brown rats are also opportunists - they will stalk, catch, kill and eat whatever is available.

**Impact on Human Health:** Like other rodents, brown rats can transmit pathogens to humans. These can cause Weil's disease, rat bite fever, cryptosporidiosis, viral hemorrhagic fever, Q fever and hantavirus pulmonary syndrome. They also spread the *Toxoplasma gondii* parasite that causes toxoplasmosis in humans.

**Impact on Property:** Brown rats cause millions of dollars of damage to stored products and food all over the world. Most of this loss is due to contamination with their droppings, urine and hair. Rats damage property with their gnawing and nest-building activities. They often make nests in stored or infrequently used appliances, cars, trucks, boats and RVs. They chew wires, causing short circuits and electrical fires.

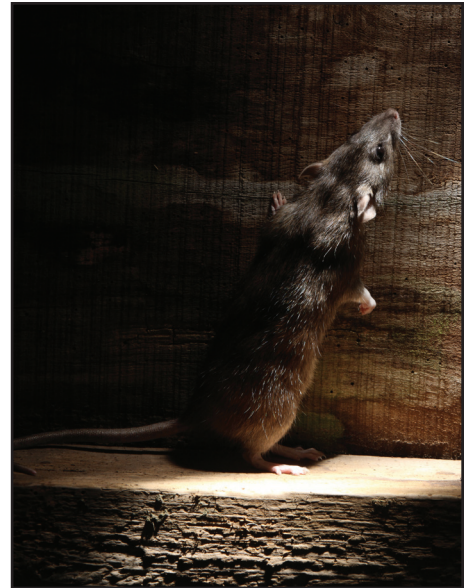
## Brown Rat Control Methods:

**Access Barriers:** *Welded Wire Mesh* and *Copper Blocker Access Control*.

**Rodent Control:** *DeTour & Roadblock Repellent*, *Fresh Cab Botanical Repellent*, *Electronic and Mechanical Rodent Traps*, *Glue Traps*, *Large Rodent Live Capture Traps*, *Ropel Animal & Rodent Repellent*

**NOTE: It is your responsibility to check local, state and federal regulations regarding the control of bird and/or animal species.**

Simply purchasing the best control does not guarantee success. Best results come from a thorough knowledge of both the species and the product or method you employ. If you have any questions, please contact Nixalite of America Inc and speak with a wildlife control product specialist.



*Thanks to their skill at stowing away on ships, brown rats enjoys nearly worldwide distribution. Where there are people, there are rats.*



*Brown rats can tread water for 3 days. They often survive being flushed down the toilet and usually return they way they left - surprise!! Factoid: the more rats eat, the longer they live.*



*Brown rats are known to transmit several deadly diseases to humans, including viral hemorrhagic fever, Weil's disease and Q-fever.*

*Note: factual content from Wikipedia, Audubon, US Center for Disease Control, US Humane Society and others.*



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