

ROBIN KAUFMAN
Director
Health Department



TOWNSHIP OF HILLSIDE
HILLSIDE HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Union County, New Jersey

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
1409 LIBERTY AVENUE
HILLSIDE, NEW JERSEY 07205
(973) 926-4535
Fax: (973) 926-5589

Dear Hillside Resident,

It has come to the attention of the Health Department, that residents are noticing increased rodent activity in and around their property.

The Township of Hillside takes these issues seriously and we are committed to doing our part to help control, and hopefully eradicate the issue. The Township has an exterminator that treats the public spaces around identified problem areas to help control the pest problem, however, we are not allowed to treat private property. Should you observe dead rodents in your area, this is a sign our extermination efforts are working.

Hillside residents need to follow the following suggestions that are key elements in rodent control and elimination.

- Food (Trash) should not be stored in open containers, or cans without tight fitting lids.
- Plastic bags should be placed in closed bins and not be leaking or broken.
- Dog food - dog water should not be left unattended outside- dog feces on the ground area outside should be picked up promptly.
- Vegetable gardens or fruit trees should be enclosed in a greenhouse
- Overgrown weeds, shrubs or high grass abutting the home or around perimeter should be cut.
- Check sheds areas both around and underneath for burrows and holes.
- Piles of debris (non-food) should not be stored directly on the ground. This also includes wood, pipes and cinder blocks.
- Pools of water on the ground/pavement and in the tops of containers needs to be cleaned.
- Bird feeders – birdseed that spills onto ground should be cleaned up.
- Harborage sites under decks – check for burrow holes.
- Compost bins or food scraps on the ground provide food sources. Elevate at least 6" off the ground.
- Leaking pipes outside provide water. Fix the leaks.
- Keep rodents out by sealing areas into homes such as aluminum siding, basement window wells, gaps around chimney caps and open flue vents leading to fireplaces with caulking or sealant.

Certain species of rats can have 12 litters per year and their babies are independent in 3 to 4 weeks. Rats can burrow to a depth of 4 feet and can swim up to ½ mile. Rats constantly gnaw on objects. Rats can jump up to 3 feet and can fit through openings that are as small as ½ inch.

RACCOONS and RODENTS CANNOT SURVIVE OR THRIVE WITHOUT FOOD, WATER AND A HOME

For further assistance or concerns, feel free to call the Hillside Health Department at 973-926-4535.

Thank you,

Robin Kaufman
Robin Kaufman, Director
Hillside Health Department

C: Mayor Dahlia O. Vertreese