



RAT AND TRASH CONTROL IN BURLEITH

Who can help and what is required?

The DC [Department of Health's Rodent Control Division](#) has established a comprehensive, sustainable, and responsive rodent control program that relies on public education and outreach, abatement, and code enforcement.

Here are the steps required to receive assistance from DOH on residential properties.

1. DC's Department of Health (DOH) Rodent Control Division requires a [petition](#) be signed by all affected neighbors before any rat eradication treatment can be performed on private properties (treating burrows in yards, etc.). This is an absolute requirement for any DOH treatment on private property. A quick [fact sheet](#) developed by the BCA may be helpful in your efforts to explain the treatment to neighbors when requesting their signature on the petition for treatment.
2. Once the petition is complete, DOH should be contacted to schedule an appointment for rat eradication. Residents whose yards will be treated should be informed of date/time of the treatment so measures can be taken to open gates, move vehicles, if necessary, and keep pets and children out of yards when inspectors are working. We suggest that [signs](#) be posted the evening before on neighbors' gates and front doors that will have treatment.
3. Inspectors will examine yards, alleys, and passageways that correspond to signatures on the petition to look for rat burrows, which are where rats live and which can be as much as 150 feet long. (A burrow in one person's yard can result in rats in several other properties.) DOH will then treat those yards (front, back, and side). DOH uses pellets or powder (that is poisonous for rats), applying it underground by inserting a plume into the burrows. The burrows are then covered with dirt to avoid contact by pets or children. DOH submits a report to BCA about which properties were treated.
4. Weeks later, DOH performs a follow-up inspection to measure effectiveness and possibly retreat areas.

What can residents do?

- Volunteer to be a point person on your block if asked and/or follow the steps above if you've seen evidence of rat activity (chewed holes in trash cans, burrows in the ground, dead rats, etc.).
- Sign the [petition](#) to allow the Department of Health to inspect your property.
- Share information about problem areas or rodent sightings on your block with the above person(s) and via the [Burleith listserv](#).
- Email rats@burleith.org with information so we can consolidate our efforts.
- Call Janice Sims, BCA's Public Works and Beautification committee co-chair, at (202) 333-6435 with questions or concerns.
- Follow these trash-related rodent control tips.
 - Remove food sources by making sure that green Supercans and recycling bins are securely closed, have no holes, and are in good condition. If you need additional cans or repairs, visit the [Department of Public Works' website](#).
 - Secure your trash cans with a bungee cord or heavy brick or weight.
 - Put trash and recycling in bins on Wednesday night and pull bins into alley for Thursday pick up. Pick up any spilled trash, food remains, and recycling afterwards.
 - Don't leave plastic garbage bags/cardboard (trash or recycling) outside your bins or overflowing from them. Overflowing trash and recycling bins can result in a fine.
 - Don't leave out extra pet food or bird seed (only put out enough for the birds to eat in a day). Store food (inside or outside) in metal or glass containers with tight lids.
 - Clean up animal feces.
 - Inspect your basement and house for cracks and holes; seal them with mortar.
 - Ensure you have screens on windows; inspect windows and screens for holes. Rats will enter through open windows!

- Keep outside doors closed; use metal trim to prevent rodents from gnawing and entering underneath.
- Don't provide hiding places for rodents; store materials such as lumber and boxes on a rack with a clean, open area underneath. Get rid of unused materials and junk.
- Remove weeds, trash, and debris near buildings and in alleys and yards. Keep vegetation in tree boxes trimmed and neat.
- Report trash violations to bca@burleith.gmail.
- Report repeatedly unkempt properties by calling (202) 442-4477. If the house is vacant, report it at the Department of [Consumer and Regulatory Affairs' Vacant Building Enforcement website](#).