



## **DC'S RAT ABATEMENT PROGRAM FACT SHEET**

DC Department of Health rat abatement efforts use registered products to bait rodents in outdoor burrows on public property. DOH also will bait private property if residents submit signed [petitions](#).

### **Allowing Baiting on Private Property**

By signing a petition you agree to allow DOH inspectors to inspect your outside private property (perimeter of your house and its yard, including entering fenced areas) to look for rat burrows (holes in the ground where rats live).

If burrows are found, DOH licensed inspectors will apply U.S. EPA-regulated rodenticides to treat the burrow by pumping bait powder into the hole and covering the hole with dirt. The bait is ingested by the rats in the burrow and they die. It is likely that they will die in the burrow rather than traveling outside the burrow to die.

**Note:** DC DOH inspectors can be identified by the vehicle they drive (generally a pick-up truck with DOH seal) and the DOH uniform they wear with a prominently displayed DOH ID badge.

### **Burrow Treatment**

1. Once DOH receives the signed petition, DOH inspectors will immediately (within one-to-two days) inspect properties and apply treatment to burrows.
2. The quantity of rodenticide used and the manner in which it is applied limits the possibility of pets or children coming into contact with the treatment.
3. Pets and children should not be in the area when treatment is applied.
4. For more information about the treatment, call (877) 672-2174, Monday to Friday, 8:15 am to 4:45 pm.