



WHAT IS A ROOF RAT?

While Roof Rats are not native to Arizona, households in the Greater Phoenix area have reportedly seen an increase of these rodents in the past few years.

These rodents, also called black rats or fruit rats usually live and nest in shrubs, trees and dense vegetation. They travel from trees or utility lines to roofs and are most often found in attics, walls, false ceilings and cabinets

APPEARANCE

- **Color:** Brown with black intermixed; gray or white underside
- **Shape:** Long and thin, large ears and eyes
- **Size:** 6 - 8 inches long, not including the tail

COMMON SIGNS

- Hollowed citrus and other fruit
- Noises in the attic and walls (especially at night)
- Gnawing sounds and marks around roof eaves
- Damage to plastics and electrical wires
- Rat droppings

FOOD SOURCE

- They love citrus fruit - promptly pick up all fallen fruit from trees
- Nuts, seeds, grains and vegetables
- Dog and cat food left outside
- Queen Palm tree fruits in summer
- Leaky faucets, bird baths, pet water bowls and fountains

HOME ENTRY

- Fit through any opening larger than a nickel
- Pipes leading to/from the attic
- Doggie doors
- Fond of attics - safe refuge and nesting place for their young
- Enter the sewer system through roof vent pipes

TRAVEL

- During twilight and nighttime hours
- Travel in a 200 - 300 foot radius from their daytime nesting location
- Thrive in cool weather
- Most active November through May

REPORTING

If you have seen Roof Rats in your neighborhood, call the Maricopa County Environmental Complaint line at (602) 506-6616 or report online at www.maricopa.gov/envsvc.

Vector Control officers can identify and test rat specimens to determine if you have roof rats.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP PREVENT ROOF RATS

- Use stucco diamond mesh to screen and seal all holes and vents leading to your home
- Eliminate vines growing on walls and your home as well as overhanging tree limbs that may be used as travel routes
- Contact an exterminator for assistance and routinely treat for pests on your property and in your home
- Store pet food in a sealed container and keep garbage cans tightly covered and closed
- Promptly pick up any fallen fruit/nuts from trees in and around your home
- Rake under your trees/bushes, eliminate thick ground cover, trim all palm trees regularly and prune bushes until you can see daylight through them