



TEQUESTA HILLS INFO – APRIL 2019

**UNIT OWNERS - PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING.
UNIT LANDLORDS - PLEASE INFORM YOUR TENANTS.**

RATS IN OUR COMMUNITY - TYPICAL LIVING IN FLORIDA

**WE DO HAVE PEST CONTROL CONTRACTED FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO BUT YOU MUST DO YOUR PART.....
NON-COMPLIANCE IS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO THE BAIT TRAPS THAT ARE BEING PLACED.....**

Rats are the leading rodent pest in Florida. We are asking all residents to be mindful of the following :

- 1) Clean up after your pet (s). Dog excrement attracts rats; # 1 food source for rats in developed areas.
- 2) Trim trees touching roofing. Really bad conducive condition because the rats have a highway right to roof area; trimming can be a deterrent for rats getting into your home.
- 3) Keep outdoor grills clean of all residue.
- 4) Never feed wild life.
- 5) If you notice gnaw marks, droppings or greasy track marks along walls, baseboards or beams, these are good signs that you may have a rat problem on your hands. Report it to the management company.
- 6) Find gaps, holes, other areas that might be a point of entry and plug them with steel wool and wire mesh. They can squeeze through relatively small openings.
- 7) Remove food/water from Courtyards. Rats will eat anything; if food is left outside, they'll just keep coming back. Rats thrive on pet food, bird seed, grass seed, garbage, dog feces, uneaten/spoiled food.
- 8) Keep food in airtight containers rather than sitting open on counters or shelves.
- 9) Rats might enter laundry rooms or where they can access water. On that note, leaky pipes anywhere around your home (inside/outdoors) must be fixed promptly as rats may be attracted to dripping water.
- 10) Do not use bird feeders as rats often enjoy eating the food that birds drop onto the ground.
- 11) Ammonia, peppermint oil, cayenne pepper, cloves soaked in a cloth or cotton ball can be placed in a small container or coffee can and placed where you've seen droppings or damage.

REASONS TO COMPLY

- 1) Rats can cause extensive property damage as they build nests and chew their way through wood, electrical wires, drywall, etc.
- 2) Known for spreading diseases to humans and other animals; can spread through bites from fleas, ticks, mites that have previously fed on infected rodents. Rats are almost never found to transmit rabies to humans.
- 3) Exposure to rat urine and feces also poses a health danger.



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RATS IN OUR COMMUNITY - TYPICAL LIVING IN FLORIDA (CONTINUED)

TIDBITS OF INFORMATION

Palm Beach Post reported in October 2017 that new information shows pesky rodents are populating Florida roofs. Terminix (Pest/Rodent Control) released a ranking of the most rat-infested roofs in the United States and 4 Florida cities are on the list -

Jupiter
Miami
Fort Myers
Tampa

Three (3) types of rats found in FL -

Roof Rat (most commonly found in FL) - Common names are Palm Rat, Fruit Rat, Ship Rat, Citrus Rat, Black Rat, House Rat.

Vegetarian but will eat most anything available.

Females produce as many as 20 offspring within 1 year.

Typically grow between 3-8 inches.

Usually black or dark brown; long tails.

Often nest up near roof/attic space.

Life span 2-3 years.

Roof rats are primarily nocturnal (sleeping during the day) and become active (seeking food/water) after dusk.

Norway Rat (normally found outside) :

Omnivores feeding on everything from meat to fruits to grains.

Burrowing rats found in basement space/crawl spaces.

Usually hide during day.

Life span typically 1 year.

Females produce up to 22 offspring within a year.

Typically grow up to 16 inches; tails shorter than bodies; usually covered in scales.

Wood Rat (aren't as common; found in northern parts of FL) :

Grow up to 7 inches; hamster-like look; black or grey to brown in color.

Average female rat has 4-6 litters per year.