



## Looking for rats in all the right places



### If you only inspect one site, make it the dumpster!

An outdoor inspection of a commercial account can be time consuming if you expect to check every square meter of a large property. Fortunately, rodents prefer certain areas. You need to concentrate your inspection efforts in the most critical sites.

Probably the number one most important outdoor inspection site, especially if you are dealing with Norway rats, is the dumpster or trash area. If dumpsters and trash receptacles are overflowing with spilled trash on the ground, you can be sure that this situation is contributing to rodent problems.

Trash areas need to be inspected at every single visit, not just occasionally. Look for rodent burrows, droppings, dead rats and mice, and any evidence of activity (rub marks, gnawing, etc.) also look for conditions (besides the available garbage) that may be attracting rodents such as thick vegetation that hides burrows and food debris, a nearby water source such as a leaky hose, or stacks of boards or stones that provide shelter.

Look for rat burrows around the edges of the dumpster slab, under nearby enclosure walls, and under nearby landscape plants. Look for rodent droppings along the edge of any walled enclosure around the trash area, particularly in corners, and under and inside the dumpster.

It's part of your job to report to your customer on the condition of the dumpster. Is it in good repair, or is it rusted out with seams that have split open? Is the drain plug missing? Rats and mice can easily get in and out of a dumpster through seam openings or an open drain hole.

The drain hole should be plugged or screened. Are dumpster doors and lids kept closed? Is the

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raincover in place? Look for gnawing on plastic or rubber raincovers. If the dumpster is routinely overflowing on your visits, the customer either needs a bigger dumpster, a second dumpster, or needs to arrange for more frequent pickup.

From a customer's point of view the dumpster area must be "out of sight, out of mind".

Wrong!!!! The dumpster area should be your focus area because this is what attracts the rodents to the facility in the first place. Start your treatment procedures in the dumpster area and you will be on your way to success.

**BATTLING TO COMPLETE  
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