

**CHAPTER 8.16  
RAT PREVENTION**

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8.16.010 Definitions: For the purposes of this chapter the following definitions shall apply:

- A. "Business building" means any structure, whether public or private, that is adapted for the occupancy for transaction of business, for rendering of professional service, for amusement, for the display, sale, or storage of goods, wares, or merchandise, or for the performance of work or labor, including hotels, roominghouses, office buildings, public buildings, stores, theaters, markets, restaurants, grain elevators, abattoirs, warehouses, workshops, factories, and all outhouses, sheds, barns, and other structures on premises used for business purposes.
- B. "Health Officer" means any duly authorized person who, by resolution by the City Council, is chosen for the position.
- C. "Occupant" means the individual, partnership, or corporation, that has the use of or occupies any business building or a part or fraction thereof whether the actual owner or tenant. In the case of vacant business buildings or any vacant portion of a business building, the owner, agent, or person having custody of the building shall have the responsibilities of an occupant of a building.
- D. "Owner" means the actual owner of the business building, whether individual, partnership, or corporation, or the agent of the building or other person having custody of the building or to whom rent is paid. In the case of business building leased with a clause in the lease specifying that the lessee is responsible for maintenance and repairs, the lessee will be considered in such cases as the owner for the purposes of the ordinance codified in this chapter.
- E. "Rat harborage" means any conditions which provide shelter or protection for rats, thus favoring their multiplication and continued existence in, under, or outside of a structure of any kind.
- F. "Rat stoppage" or "ratproofing" applies to a relatively inexpensive form of ratproofing to prevent the ingress of rats into business buildings from the exterior or from one business building to another. It consists essentially of the closing of all openings in the exterior walls, ground and first floors, basements, roofs, and foundations, that may be reached by rats from the ground, by climbing or by burrowing, with material impervious to rat gnawing.

8.16.020 Buildings to be Ratproof: It is provided that all business buildings in the city shall be ratproofed, freed of rats, and maintained in a ratproof, rat-free condition under the direction and supervision of the health officer.

- 8.16.030 Notice to Make Premises Ratproof: Upon receipt of written notice and/or order from the Health Officer, the owner of any business building specified therein shall take immediate measures for ratproofing the building, and unless the work and improvements have been completed by the owner in the time specified in the written notice, in no event to be less than fifteen days, or within the time to which a written extension may have been granted by the Health Officer, then the owner is guilty of an offense under the provisions of this chapter.
- 8.16.040 Ratproofing by Health Officer: Whenever the Health Officer notifies the occupant of a business building that there is evidence of rat infestation of the building, the occupant or occupants shall immediately institute appropriate measures for freeing the premises each occupier of all rats, and unless suitable measures for freeing the building of all rats are instituted within three days after receipt of notice and unless continuously maintained in a satisfactory manner until the building is free of rats, the Health Officer is authorized and directed to free the building of rats and to levy a monthly charge against the occupant to cover the costs of labor, materials, and equipment necessary for eradication measures carried out each month.
- 8.16.050 Repair of Breaks in Ratproofing: The occupants of all ratproofed business buildings are required to maintain the premises in a rat-proof condition and to repair all breaks or leaks that may occur in the ratproofing unless such breaks or leaks develop as the result of natural deterioration of the building.
- 8.16.060 Inspections: From and after passage of the ordinance codified in this chapter, the Health Officer is empowered to make unannounced inspections of the interior and exterior of business buildings, as in his opinion may be necessary to determine full compliance with the ordinance, and the Health Officer shall make periodic inspections at intervals of not more than forty-five days of all rat-stopped buildings to determine evidence of rat infestation and the existence of new breaks or leaks in their ratproofing, and when any evidence is found indicating the presence of rats or openings through which rats may again enter business buildings, the Health Officer shall serve the owners or occupants with notice and/or orders to abate the conditions found.
- 8.16.070 Floors and Other Interior Conditions: Whenever conditions inside or under business buildings provide such extensive harborage for rats that the Health Officer deems it necessary to eliminate such harborage, he may require the owner to install suitable cement floors in basements or to replace wooden first or ground floors or require the owner to correct such other interior rat harborage as may be necessary in order to facilitate the eradication of rats in a reasonable time and thereby to reduce the cost thereof.
- 8.16.080 Work on Building - Restoration of Ratproofing: It is unlawful under the provisions of this chapter for the occupant, owner, contractor, public utility company, plumber, or any other person to remove the ratproofing from any business building for any purpose and fail to restore the same in a satisfactory condition or to make any new openings that are not closed or sealed against the entrance of rats.
- 8.16.090 Food Storage: All food and feed kept within the city for feeding chickens, cows, pigs, horses, and other animals shall be kept and stored in rat-free and ratproof containers, compartments, or rooms unless kept in a ratproof building.
- 8.16.100 Garbage in Covered Containers: Within the corporate limits of the city all garbage and refuse consisting of waste animal or vegetable matter upon which rats may feed, and all small dead animals shall be placed and stored until collected by the garbage department in covered containers, of a type prescribed by the Health Officer according to existing conditions, and it is declared unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to dump or place on any premises, land, or waterway, any dead animals, or any waste vegetable or animal matter of any kind.
- 8.16.110 Leaving or Accumulating Garbage as Food for Rats: It is unlawful for any person to permit to accumulate on any premises, improved or vacant, and on all open lots and alleys in the city any

lumber, boxes, barrels, bricks, stones or similar materials that may be permitted to remain thereon unless they shall be placed on open racks that are elevated not less than eighteen inches above the ground, and evenly piled or stacked so that these materials will not afford harborage for rats.

- 8.16.120 Allowing Building Materials to Become Harborage for Rats: It is unlawful for any person to permit to accumulate on any premises, improved or vacant, and on all open lots and alleys in the city any lumber, boxes, barrels, bricks, stones or similar materials that may be permitted to remain thereon unless they shall be placed on open racks that are elevated not less than eighteen inches (18") above the ground, and evenly piled or stacked so that these materials will not afford harborage for rats.
- 8.16.130 Removing Cover From Garbage Container: It is unlawful for any person to remove the cover from any metal garbage container in the city except momentarily for the purpose of proper use of same as a garbage container.