



# RATS— KEEP OUT!



## Did you know?

- Rats make nests in dense shrubbery, wood piles, garbage piles, compost mounds and utility sheds
- Rats will eat almost anything including garbage, bones, fruits, pet food, mice, and pet droppings
- Rats can chew through plastic pet food containers if left outside
- Rats can cause power outages by chewing through power lines



**Rats can spread salmonella, rat-bite fever and other diseases. Cleaning up rodent urine and droppings requires special precautions to prevent getting sick.**

## How to keep Rats out!

- Store food in rat proof buildings, rooms or containers
- Keep garbage in cans and other sealed containers
- Pick up fruit that falls to the ground
- Feed dogs or cats inside and clean up their droppings
- Prevent access to bird feeders
- Eliminate access to water

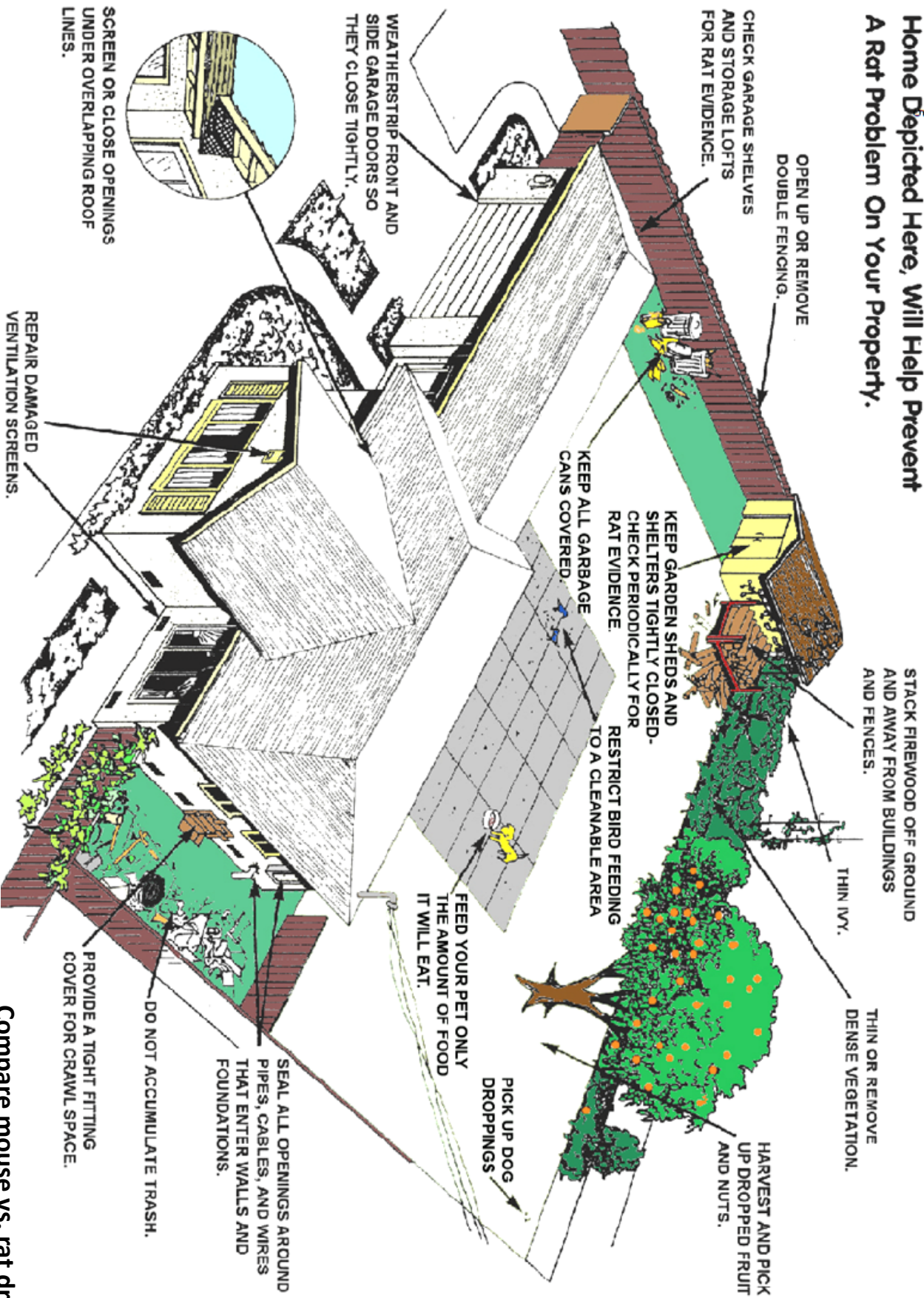
## Recognizing Rat Activity.

- Rat droppings are dark in color, spindle shaped and 1/2 inch long
- Look for greasy rub marks caused by the rat's oily fur coming in contact with painted surfaces or wood beams
- Small random piles of damaged, partially eaten fruit may be seen in and around a person's property
- Rat sightings on utility cables, top of fences, or in trees
- Look for signs of gnawing on joists, door corners, siding, and around pipes in floors

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Kittitas County Public Health Department at 509-962-7515 or visit us at <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/health/>



# Close Attention To The Areas Of Your Home Depicted Here, Will Help Prevent A Rat Problem On Your Property.



Compare mouse vs. rat droppings

