**Roof Rats**

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| **Color:** | Black |
| **Legs:** | 4 |
| **Shape:** | Long |
| **Size:** | 16" total (6-8" body plus 6-8" tail) |
| **Antennae:** | False |
| **Region:** | Found throughout U.S. |

Roof rats get their name from their tendency to be found in the upper parts of buildings. Ranging in size from 6 to 8 inches in length, not including their tails, they have very poor vision and are color blind. They do have extremely strong senses of hearing, smell, touch and taste.

**Habits**

Roof rats are known for the damage they cause by chewing on materials and eating stored foods.

**Habitat**

Roof rats can be found in the upper parts of buildings, and can also be found under, in and around structures. They only need a space of one-half inch to get into buildings.

**Threats**

Roof rats secured their place in history by spreading the highly dangerous bubonic plague. They support many ectoparasites and urinate on food.

**Prevention:**

To prevent rats from entering a home, seal up any holes or cracks larger than a quarter. Remove sources of moisture and harborage.

http://www.pestworld.org/roof-rat