

A CHICAGO TENANT'S GUIDE TO RAT PROBLEMS

YOUR RIGHTS AS A TENANT

- In Chicago, the legal rights and responsibilities of both landlords and tenants are covered in the Residential Landlord and Tenant Ordinance (RLTO).*
- Both exterior and interior rat problems should be reported by calling 3-1-1 or submitting a report online.

Landlords

Your landlord has a duty to maintain the condition of your apartment by protecting you against rodents and insects by exterminating.

Written Notice

Present your landlord with a written notice of the rat problem and give them 14 days to fix it.

Failure to Remedy

If your rat issue is not addressed in 14 days, tenants have the right to break the lease, leave premises and get back all prepaid rent and security deposit.

"Repair and Deduct"

If your landlord doesn't make necessary repairs, you can also use your rent to pay for those repairs if the repair will cost no more than \$500 or one-half of your rent (whichever is greater).

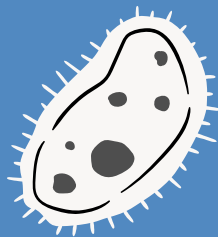
Call 3-1-1

Chicago's Bureau of Rodent Control investigates every reported rat sighting. Alley conditions are assessed and damaged carts are replaced. Rodenticide is placed in rat burrows to eradicate the nest.

Resources

Visit the Metropolitan Tenants Organization here for more info: <https://www.tenants-rights.org/apartment-conditions-and-repairs-faq/>

FACTS ABOUT RATS



Rats and mice can spread over 35 diseases to humans.

Diseases can be spread to humans directly by handling of rodents, their feces, urine, saliva, or through bites.



Residents can help reduce rats by making sure that all garbage cans are securely closed in the alley.

Diseases carried by rodents can also be spread to humans indirectly, through ticks, mites or fleas.



NOTE: if your landlord lives in your building, see the "Exceptions" note here: <https://www.tenants-rights.org/exceptions-to-the-chicago-residential-landlord-tenant-ordinance/>