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.

**YOUR RIGHTS AS A TENANT**

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**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 (which ever 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/