

# City of Royal Oak Rodent Information

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[www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us](http://www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us)

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# DOMESTIC RODENTS

## Some General Tips on Rodent Control

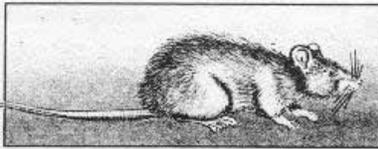
**NORWAY RAT** — *Rattus norvegicus*



**TAIL** — Shorter than head & body  
**BODY** — Heavy, thick  
**EAR** — Small  
**EYE** — Small  
**NOSE** — Blunt

(Also known as *Wharf, Sewer, Brown, Common*)

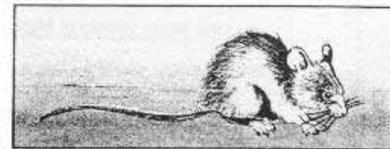
**ROOF RAT** *Rattus rattus*



**TAIL** — Longer than head & body  
**BODY** — Slender  
**EAR** — Large  
**EYE** — Large  
**NOSE** — Pointed

(Also known as *Black, Alex, Fruit, Ship*)

**HOUSE MOUSE** *Mus musculus*



**FEET** — Small  
**HEAD** — Small

## Droppings



**Blunt**  
 Average Length 3/4"  
 (shown actual size)



**Pointed**  
 Average Length 1/2"  
 (shown actual size)



**Pointed**  
 Average Length 1/4"  
 (shown actual size)

Name	Average Weight	Body	Tail	Ears	Color	Food Prefrs	Consumption per day	Droppings per day	Urine per day	Habits
Norway Rat <i>Rattus Norvegicus</i>	10-17 ounces	Heavy, broad, 7"-10" long, blunt	6"-8.5" long, loghter color on underside	Avg, close to body	Brown to black on back and sides, gray to yellow-white on belly	Meats, fish, flour, fruits, vegetables . Eats most any human food	3/4 - 1oz. Food 1/2 - 1oz. water	30-180	15.7cc	Usually nests in basements & lower portions of buildings. Burrows in soil extensively. Active primarily at night. Fair climber, good swimmer.
							6-18 young in litter	3-7 litters per year	Adult life 18 mos.	
Roof Rat <i>Rattus rattus Alexandrinus</i>	6 - 12 ounces	Slender body 6.5" - 8" long, pointed muzzle	7.5"-10" long. Uniform color, top & bottom	Large, prominent	Tawny back grayish-white underparts	Seeds, fruits, vegies, grains, eggs, etc	1/2 - 1oz food, up to 1oz water	30-180	15.7cc	Usually enters and mests in upper portions of buildings. May nest outside in trees (esp. palms), ivy, etc. Burrows very little. Excellent climber. Active at night.
							6-14 young in litter	2-7 litters per year	Adult life 16 mos.	
House Mouse <i>Mus musculus</i>	Less than 1oz	Avg body 2.5"-3.5" long	3"-4"	Large, prominent	Dusky gray on black, lighter gray on belly.	Meats, grains, cereals, seeds, fruits, vegies. Eats most any type human food	1/10 oz food 1/20oz water	50	1.75cc	May nest in any portion of a building near food. Has an average range of 50ft. from nest. Active mostly at night. Nibbles small amounts of food frequently, rather than having large meals.
							6 young in litter	6 litters per year	Adult life 15-18 mos.	

## **INSPECTION**

Rodents behave predictably. A rodent control expert is a detective searching for clues that point to an infestation. This knowledge is then used to choose appropriate rodent control tools and techniques and when to use them.

### **The Inspection Process**

- Interview residents for information about rodent sightings and sounds.
- Perform a thorough inspection, beginning with the exterior premises, if appropriate.
- Think three-dimensionally, looking both high and low. A rule-of-thumb is to check 3 feet above both the ground and objects attached to the building.
- Identify interior and exterior problem areas including: runways, nests, feeding sites, water supplies, vents and other openings, burrows, harborage, pipe outlets and inlets and holes or cracks in the structure.
- Check all dark areas with a flashlight.

**Physical Signs of Infestation** - Look for these common signs of rodent infestation:

**Runways** - Paths will form between feeding and harborage areas. Rodents memorize their territory through kinesthetic (physical) memory and use the same paths again and again. They prefer to move along objects. Identifying rodent movement patterns helps to effectively place traps and bait stations.

**Droppings** - Droppings and urine are left wherever rodents travel or rest, especially in corners. Identify the rodent type by the size and shape of droppings. Use a palette knife to check droppings - fresh droppings are soft and shiny, while older droppings are gray, crusted and easy to break.

**Population** - Estimating populations is difficult. Because commensal rodents are primarily nocturnal, daytime rodent sightings may indicate a significant population.

**Urine/Odor** - A distinctive, musky odor may be present. Look for urine stains. Rodent urine is visible under black light. However, many other household and commercial products also fluoresce.

**Gnaw Marks** - Fresh gnaw marks are light and will darken over time. Scratch-like marks approximately 1/16-inch are made by mice. Clear 1/8-inch gnaw marks are made by rats.

**Rub Marks** - Rodents leave rub marks from body oil, grease and dirt along the walls they travel. New rub marks will smear. Old rub marks are darker and may flake off.

**Tracks** - Footprints and tail drags may be seen in dusty locations. To view difficult-to-see tracks, shine a strong flashlight at a low angle across the dust. A non-toxic tracking powder placed on a suspected rodent trail, and re-inspected the following day, also may assist in identifying tracks.

**Upset Pets** - House pets, such as cats and dogs may become agitated when they hear rodents gnawing, digging, running and fighting.

### **Inspection Tools**

- Flashlight with a strong beam
- Black light to identify rodent urine
- Knife, palette knife or spatula to test age of droppings
- Specimen bag or plastic container to collect unknown specimens
- Protective gloves
- Knee pads
- Clipboard, graph paper and pencil to diagram building and take extensive notes
- Inspection check list
- Binoculars
- Respirator with HEPA filter

## **REPRODUCTION**

Mice and rats reproduce rapidly, as is generally the case with small prey animals. Their relatively short life spans, short gestation periods and rapid sexual maturity make effective rodent control critical. The reproductive cycle and number of rodent offspring increases with adequate food, water and harborage.

### **House Mouse Reproduction Cycle**

- Mice sexually mature and mate in as little as 5 weeks. Generally, sexual maturity is reached in 5 to 8 weeks.
- Female mice reproduce up to 8 times in their lifespan, with litters averaging 4 to 7 pups. Therefore, a single female may produce up to 56 offspring annually.

### **Rat Reproduction Cycle**

- Norway and roof rats can sexually mature and mate at 8 to 12 weeks of age.
- Norway rats average 8 to 12 pups per litter, averaging 4 to 7 litters per year.
- Roof rats average 4 to 8 pups per litter, averaging 4 to 6 litters per year.

### **Related Reproductive Characteristics**

House mice, Norway rats and roof rats share several reproductive characteristics:

- After giving birth, they can be in heat and become pregnant again in as little as 24 to 48 hours.
- Females can be pregnant and still lactate to feed their current litter of pups. However, the gestation period may be slightly longer in this case.
- They will reproduce year-round in stable environments with adequate food, water and harborage. Less favorable conditions limit reproduction to spring and autumn.
- House mice, Norway rats and roof rats live approximately one year.

## **EXCLUSION, SANITATION, TRAPPING**

### **Exclusion**

The best way to keep buildings rodent free is to prevent rats and mice from getting inside. Rodents fit through tiny openings and can gnaw through wood, lead, aluminum, copper, cinder block and uncured concrete. The following measures, with the proper materials, will make buildings less accessible to rodents.

- Mice can gnaw their way through openings as small as 1/4 inch. Rats can gnaw through openings as small as 1/2 inch.
- Patch openings in walls larger than 3/8 inch using gnaw-proof materials, such as steel sheeting, 1/4 inch hardware cloth, galvanized steel and concrete. Holes may be plugged with steel wool prior to patching. An aerosol foam spray may then be used to seal remaining cracks.
- Close outside doors tightly when not in use.

### **Sanitation**

Eliminating places that may provide rodents with shelter, water and food is the purpose of sanitation.

- Eliminate debris in and around buildings and grounds.
- Trim weeds and brush and keep grass short (3 inches or less) to minimize cover and food sources around the building perimeter.
- Clean up food waste and spillage daily.
- Store food 12 to 15 inches off the floor and 12 to 18 inches away from the wall for easy inspection and sanitation. Use rodent-proof containers when possible.
- Between storage areas, allow 24-inch aisles for easier inspection and sanitation.
- Screen dumpster drainage holes with hardware cloth.
- Don't leave pet food out overnight.
- Eliminate water sources available to rodents.

### **Trapping**

In sensitive areas where rodenticide use isn't permitted, traps are especially useful. Traps also prevent rodent deaths in inaccessible areas. After rodents and their patterns have been identified, follow the appropriate methods below.

- Place mechanical or snap traps and glue boards in areas unsuitable for rodenticide applications.
- Position snap traps and glue boards to intercept rodents in runways. Place snap traps with the trigger toward the runway - generally along a wall, in corners, behind and under objects and near abundant tracks and droppings. Snap traps also may be attached to pipes and beams used as runways.
- More traps are better than fewer traps.
- Bait snap traps with food that's more attractive than other readily available food sources, such as gumdrops, peanut butter, bacon, nutmeats or dried fruit (raisins). Secure bait to the snap trap trigger - a length of thread works well. For rats, fish (tuna) and meat (cat/dog food) may be used to bait traps. Glue boards can be baited, if necessary, with non-oily foods. The use of peanut butter, bacon and other oily, greasy foods will cause the glue to lose its stickiness.
- Glue boards shouldn't be used in areas with excessive dust or wetness - both elements make glue boards ineffective.
- Check glue boards frequently to prevent rodents from escaping.
- For mice, repeating or automatic mechanical traps may be used. Bait repeating traps with food that won't spoil.

### **Trapping Tips:**

Store snap traps away from insecticides and chemicals that may impart a flavor. Remember, rodents have a keen sense of taste.

Bait snap traps using nesting materials, such as cotton or dental floss, with a drop of vanilla. Mice constantly look for nesting material.

## **BAITING**

When the situation permits, rodenticides usually provide the most cost-effective approach to rodent control. Select a rodenticide with an active ingredient and formulation that works well for the particular environment. Correct bait placement is key to an effective integrated pest management program. Proper placement insures rapid rodent control and protects children, pets and non-target animals from bait contact.

### **Rules-of-Thumb**

- Neophobia - the fear of new objects - makes roof rats and Norway rats extremely nervous about changes in their territory. It takes several days for rats to accept a new object in their environment, including bait stations.
- Place rodenticides in areas inaccessible to children and non-target animals, preferably in properly installed, tamper-resistant bait stations. Bait stations not only provide added security for children and non-target animals, but also protect bait from the elements and provide a comfortable place for rodents to feed and groom.
- Use the proper rodenticide bait for the target rodent and the best formulation for the environment. Maki paraffinized pellets and meal or Rozol Tracking Powder work well for burrow treatment. In fact, Maki is the only pelleted rodenticide on the market that is paraffinized to withstand the moist environment in some burrows.
- Using information obtained during the inspection process, place baits in rodent runways.
- Use a sufficient amount of product to assure an uninterrupted supply of bait between service visits.
- Tracking powder can be used in wall voids and in burrows adjacent to buildings, if suspected as a means of entry. It is most effective in dry areas where food sources are plentiful. Rodents groom themselves and each other approximately 20 percent of their waking hours. Rodenticide is ingested during this time.
- In areas of identified mice activity, rodenticide bait placements should be no further than 8 to 12 feet apart due to their limited home range.
- In areas of identified rat activity, rodenticides should be placed every 15 to 30 feet.
- To speed up service calls, keep a detailed record of bait station placements, rodenticide formulations, amounts used and service dates.
- Prebaiting is the process of placing non-toxic bait prior to toxic bait in order to increase product acceptance. This practice generally is used for acute baits (e.g., zinc phosphide) with low palatability. Prebaiting is usually unnecessary with highly palatable anticoagulant baits.

These are common practices used throughout the control industry. Some or all of which may be used during your rodent control program. Please talk to your customer service representative or technician for more details specific to your service.

## **Rodenticides**

Two primary types of rodenticide baits are available - non-anticoagulants (acute) and anticoagulants.

**Non-anticoagulants.** Bromethalin and zinc phosphide based products are examples of acute baits which have no antidote. Palatability is generally low with products containing these active ingredients. Non-anticoagulants are considered single-feed baits because rodents typically stop feeding after one meal. If a lethal dose is ingested, rodents usually die within 24 hours. If a sub-lethal dose is eaten, rodents tend to develop bait shyness.

**Anticoagulants.** The preferred rodenticide type among rodent control professionals, anticoagulants inhibit the blood-clotting mechanism, causing rodents to die from internal bleeding. Some of these rodenticides are single-feed and effective within several days. The delayed effects of anticoagulants help reduce bait shyness. The antidote to human or non-target animal poisoning is Vitamin K1.

## NORWAY RAT



*Rattus norvegicus*

**Other Names:** brown rat, gray rat, common rat, house rat, wharf rat, sewer rat, barn rat and water rat.

**Ears.** Ears are close to the body and won't cover the eyes if bent forward.

**Eyes.** Eyes are small. Because rats are colorblind and have poor eyesight, they primarily see light, shadow and movement.

**Nose.** Nose and muzzle are blunt. Norway rats have an acute sense of smell.

**Color.** Usually grayish-brown, but color may vary from a pure gray to a blackish- or reddish-brown. The underside is gray to yellow-white. Norway rats are often completely black.

**Teeth.** The gnaw pattern of rats is 1/8 inch. Rats are able to gnaw through wood, lead, aluminum, copper, cinder block and uncured concrete.

**Droppings.** Droppings have blunt ends and are about 3/4 inch (2 cm) in. Fresh droppings are soft and dark in color. A Norway rat averages 30 to 180 droppings per day.

**Tail.** Tail is shorter than head and body - 6 to 8 1/2 inches (15 to 22 cm) long. Tail is dark on top with a lighter underside.

**Body.** Body is heavy and thick, 7 to 10 inches (18 to 25 cm) long. Average weight is 10 to 17 ounces (284 to 482 g).

**Life:** Adult life is approx. 18 months. Females will have 3-7 litters per year with 6-18 young in each litter.

**Habits.** Norway rats burrow extensively in soil and are excellent swimmers and good climbers. They usually nest in basements and lower portions of buildings. Nocturnal. Most activity and feeding takes place between a half-hour after sunset and a half-hour before sunrise. Very strong social hierarchy - the biggest and strongest Norway rats get the best food and harborage.

**Food Preferences and Consumption.** Omnivores. Meats, fish, flour, cereal grains, fruits and vegetables. Eats almost any human food. Rats visit fewer food sites than mice, but eat more at each site. Consumes 3/4 to 1 ounce of food each day. Requires water daily to survive - drinks 1/2 to 1 ounce of water daily.

**Geographic range:** Best suited for temperate zones. Due to excellent adaptability, Norway rats are found everywhere in the United States.

### **Facts:**

Rats explore their territory of 100 to 300 feet daily.

Rats can swim up to a mile.

## ROOF RAT



### *Rattus rattus*

**Other Names:** Alexandrian rat, black rat, fruit rat and ship rat.

**Body.** Body is slender, 6 1/2 to 8 inches (17 to 20 cm) long. Average weight is 6 to 12 ounces (170 to 340 g).

**Life:** Adult life is approx. 16 months. Females will have 3-7 litters per year with 6-14 young in each litter.

**Color.** Varies from black to brownish-gray. The underside varies from gray to white.

**Nose.** Nose and muzzle are pointed. Roof rats have an acute sense of smell.

**Habits.** Able to swing, jump and climb, roof rats usually enter and nest in upper portions of buildings. May nest outside in trees (especially palm), ivy and similar vegetation. Burrow very little. Nocturnal. Most activity and feeding takes place between a half-hour after sunset and a half-hour before sunrise. Strong social hierarchy.

**Teeth.** The gnaw pattern of rats is 1/8 inch. Rats are able to gnaw through wood, lead, aluminum, copper, cinder block and uncured concrete.

**Tail.** Hairless and longer than the head and body - 7 1/2 to 10 inches (19 to 25 cm) long. Uniform color from top to underside.

**Ears.** Ears are large and cover the eyes if bent forward.

**Eyes.** Eyes are large and prominent. Because rats are colorblind and have poor eyesight, they primarily see light, shadow and movement.

**Droppings.** Droppings have pointed ends and are about 1/2 inch (1 cm) in length. Fresh droppings are soft and dark in color. A roof rat averages 30 to 180 droppings per day.

**Food Preferences and Consumption.** Omnivores. Seeds, fruits, vegetables, eggs and grain. Rats visit fewer food sites than mice, but eat more at each site. Consumes 1/2 to 1 ounce of food daily. Drinks up to 1 ounce of water daily.

**Geographic Range** Best suited for tropical and semitropical zones, roof rats are found along the Pacific Coast, in Hawaii, along the lower half of the East Coast, throughout the Gulf States and major river systems (i.e., Mississippi River).

### **Facts:**

Rats explore their territory of 100 to 300 feet daily. Rats can survive a fall from up to 25 feet onto a hard surface

## House Mouse



*Mus musculus*

**Other Names:** common house mouse.

**Eyes.** Eyes are small and somewhat protruding. Mice are colorblind and can only recognize objects up to 10 feet away.

**Ears.** Relatively large ears for its size.

**Teeth.** The gnaw pattern of mice is less than 1/16 inch.

**Body.** Body is small, pear-shaped and slender, 2 to 3 1/2 inches (5 to 9 cm) long. Average weight is 5/8 to 1 ounce (18 to 28 g).

**Life:** Adult life is approx. 15-18 months. Females will have 6 litters per year with 6 young in each litter.

**Color.** Generally grayish-brown on top. The underside is a light cream color.

**Habits.** Excellent climbers. Can be found in cultivated fields, at or below ground level, or in upper stories of skyscrapers. Curious and inquisitive. Mice explore their limited home range of 10 to 30 feet daily for newly introduced objects. Nocturnal. Most activity and feeding takes place between a half-hour after sunset and a half-hour before sunrise. Strong social hierarchy.

**Food Preferences and Consumption.** Omnivores. Seeds (preferred food), cereal grains, fruits, vegetables and meats. Mice frequent many feeding sites - often 20 to 30 - during their active period, eating small amounts of food from each site. Daily consumption: 1/10 ounce. Water is not essential to survival if food contains at least 16 percent moisture.

**Droppings.** Droppings have pointed ends and are about 1/4 inch (.64 cm) in. Fresh droppings are soft and dark in color. A house mouse averages 50 droppings per day.

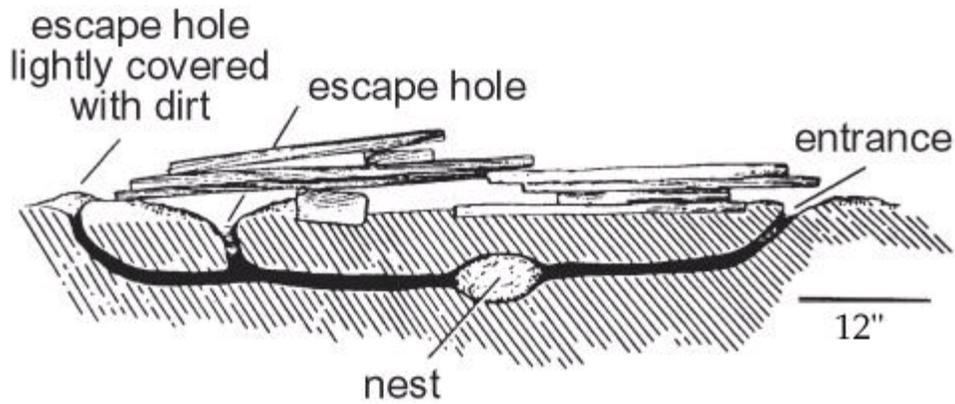
**Tail.** The tail is 3 to 4 inches (7 to 10 cm) long, semi-naked and longer than the head and body combined.

**Geographic range:** Throughout the United States and southwest Canada, north to central British Columbia and along the Pacific Coast to Alaska.

**Facts:**

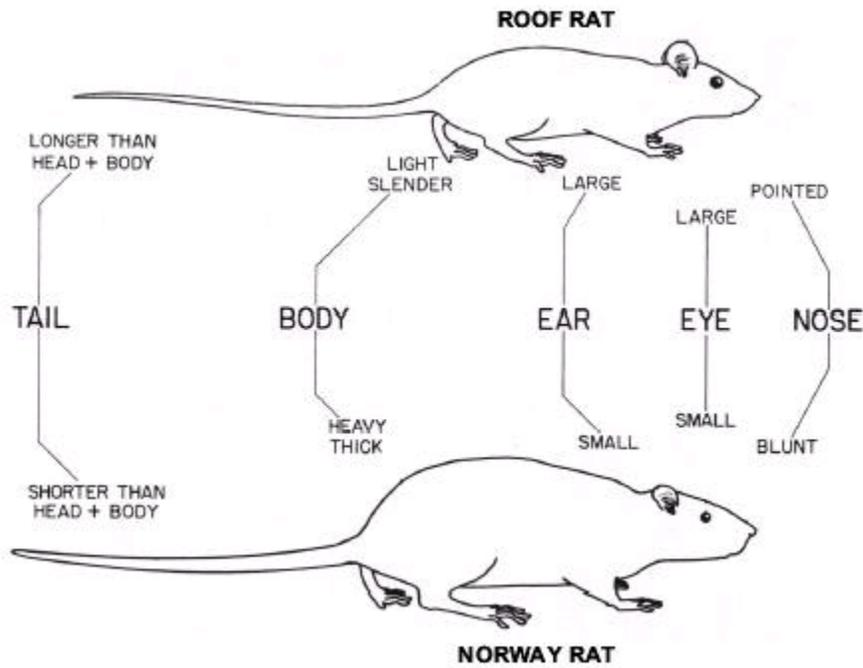
Mice can survive an 8-foot fall onto a hard surface.

A mouse travels 12 feet per second.



**Norway rat burrow beneath a pile of boards.**

From Hygnstrom, S. E., R. M. Timm, and G. E. Larson, eds. 1994. *Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage*. Vol. 1. Lincoln: Univ. Neb. Coop. Ext.



**Key characteristics**

**of Norway and roof rats.**

From Bjornson, B. F., and C. V. Wright. 1960 (revised). *Control of Domestic Rats and Mice*. Center for Disease Control, USDHEW, Public Health Service Pub. 563.



**Droppings of house mouse (left), roof rat (center), and Norway rat (right).**

Photo by unknown photographer.

# Socrra Drop off Center - Recycling Guidelines

## HOURS FOR THE DROP-OFF CENTER

Monday-Friday - 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday - 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

(Winter hours vary)

## DROP-OFF CENTER LOCATION

995 Coolidge in Troy (between 14 and 15 Mile Roads - across the street from Meijer).

## WHAT YOU CAN BRING TO THE DROP-OFF CENTER

Anything you can put in your curbside bin (see Curbside Recycling Instructions) such as:

- corrugated cardboard, paperboard and brown paper grocery bags
- magazines and catalogues
- newspapers, glossy advertisements and all inserts
- telephone books
- batteries (household)
- **ONLY** narrow-neck plastic bottles with 1 or 2 on bottom
- glass bottles and jars (**clear and brown only**) - no ceramics, mirrors, coffee cups, plates or window glass
- metal (cans, pie tins, metal lids, aluminum trays, metal clothes hangers, pots and pans, toasters, faucets, silverware, pipe, and other small metal items)
- paint and aerosol cans (must be empty)

These items **CAN NOT** be put in your bin and **MUST** be brought to the drop-off center:

- office paper (**mix white and colors together.**)
- automotive batteries
- paperback books (KEEP SEPARATE)
- hardcover books (KEEP SEPARATE)
- unbundled, unflattened cardboard (YOU ONLY NEED TO FOLD, FLATTEN AND TIE CARDBOARD IF YOU ARE PUTTING CARDBOARD IN YOUR CURBSIDE BIN - YOU CAN BRING IT "AS IS" TO THE DROP-OFF CENTER).

Questions about recycling or to ask for a copy of SOCRRRA's Curbside Recycling Instructions?

Call SOCRRRA at (248) 288-5150.

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# ***FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT WASTE / RECYCLING***

## **What cities are members of SOCRRA?**

Berkley, Beverly Hills, Birmingham, Clawson, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak and Troy.

## **Is there a list of stores/organizations that repair, recycle, buy, sell or accept donations of used items?**

Check out SOCRRA's Waste Reduction Guide. There you will find many responsible alternatives to dealing with "unwanted" items. Don't trash them - find another use for them.

## **Where can I recycle my old used **electronic equipment**?**

This service is for residents of SOCRRA communities only. Call (248) 586-0924 (our recycling station on John R., just north of 12 Mile Road in Madison Heights) or (248) 288-5153 (our station on Coolidge in Troy) to make an appointment to bring in your old electronic equipment for recycling. These phone lines for making appointments are sporadically staffed from 9 am - 4 pm Monday through Friday. SOCRRA will take computer monitors, CPUs, printers, television sets, radios, telephones, cell phones, copy machines, fax machines, stereos, VCR and CD players. **Businesses** can get information on where to recycle their computers from the Electronics Industries Alliance at [www.eia.org](http://www.eia.org) or [www.electronicrecycling.net](http://www.electronicrecycling.net)

## **Where can I recycle plastic bags?**

SOCRRA doesn't recycle them. Try taking them back to the grocery store - or use them around the house. If your school would like to recycle plastic bags and earn money for your efforts or to get the name of a school in your area that participates in the plastic bag recycling program, call ENVIRO-BAG at 1-800-866-3954 for more information.

## **What can I do with Styrofoam?**

SOCRRA doesn't accept this item. If you have Styrofoam peanuts, take them to Mail Boxes, Etc. If you have other types of Styrofoam, call Onyx at 248-349-4444.

## **Does SOCRRA accept green glass?**

SOCRRA does not accept green glass from residents or businesses as the market is saturated from green bottles returned to stores for the 10-cent deposit.

## **What do I do with used cooking oil?**

If solid, place in the trash in a sealed container. If liquid, make an appointment to dispose of it through SOCRRA's Household Waste Program (248-288-5153). Do not pour down the drain.

## **Can I recycle empty motor oil containers?**

Unfortunately, empty motor oil containers or items with a "poison" label must be trashed.

## **How do I dispose of hazardous chemicals (gasoline, oil, pesticides, fertilizer, paint, poisons), propane tanks, etc.?**

These items should not be thrown in the trash. Call (248) 288-5153 to schedule an appointment through SOCRRA's Household Waste collection program. Gasoline needs to be brought in a State Fire Marshal-approved container (not a milk jug). We cannot return your container since we don't dump the fuel; we place your container in a 55-gallon drum for disposal. **You must live in the cities of Berkley, Beverly Hills, Birmingham, Clawson, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak or Troy to use this program. NO BUSINESSES, residents only.**

**What if I don't live in one of SOCRRA's member municipalities?**

Call IRWS (Innovative Recycling and Waste Services, Inc.) at (248) 446-5052. They may be able to help you.

**What is the Clean Sweep program?**

Clean Sweep is a free program for accepting pesticides and thermometers from any non-SOCRRA resident. We no longer have grant dollars, therefore to dispose of these items, you should call Jack Knorek with the Michigan Department of Agriculture at 517/335-2874

**What can I do with lead acid batteries - from cars, motorcycles, etc.? What about dry cell batteries (AA, C, D, button)?**

Lead acid batteries from cars, motorcycles, boats, golf carts, etc. are recyclable at the MRF drop-off center at no charge, 995 Coolidge (between 14 and 15 Mile Roads - right across the street from Meijer). Home Depot (just north of the MRF) takes rechargeable batteries from small power tools. Residents can place AA, C, D, button - "dry cell" batteries in a plastic bag and put in their recycling bin (we don't accept these at the drop-off center). **NO BUSINESSES; NO NON-RESIDENTS** due to high cost of disposal.

**What about concrete?**

You can probably dump inexpensively at T J Fiore Crushed Concrete, 33300 Mound Road, Sterling Heights (586/939-6200). Concrete will be accepted (broken into 1'x1' pieces or smaller) at the Troy Transfer Station, 991 Coolidge (between 14 and 15 Mile Roads - right across the street from Meijer). See CHARGE below.

**How do I dispose of tree stumps, brush and branches?**

Sorry, SOCRRA does not take tree stumps. Call your municipal DPW for further options. As for brush and branches, we prefer them chipped. Otherwise, brush can be cut to 4-4 1/2 feet long, bundled and placed in the trash. A free chipper is available at 575 Collier Road in Pontiac.

**What do I do with shrubs?**

SOCRRA will accept shrubs with roots as Bulky Waste at the Troy Transfer Station, 991 Coolidge. See CHARGE below.

**Does SOCRRA take lumber?**

SOCRRA takes lumber and demolition material as Bulky Waste at the Troy Transfer Station, 991 Coolidge. Must be cut in lengths less than four feet. See CHARGE below.

**Can I bring in washers, dryers, etc.?**

SOCRRA accepts washers, dryers, refrigerators, air conditioners, etc. for **FREE** at the Troy Transfer Station as long as "freon has been removed sticker" is on it. Place them in the "Scrap Metal" pile. If freon needs to be removed, there is a \$50 charge per unit.

**What about appliances that have freon in them?**

If freon needs to be removed, there is a \$50 charge per unit.

**Do you take tires?**

Residents may want to throw one or two tires in a black plastic garbage bag and leave at the curb for regular trash pickup - some communities are fussy though, so the bag may be left behind. Call your city to confirm. For cash customers at the Troy Transfer Station, you may bring a maximum of two tires per load. See CHARGE below.

**How about asbestos house siding and ceiling tiles?**

These can be thrown in the trash. This is not the same type of asbestos that is used for insulation or pipe wrap.

**What about asbestos insulation (pipe wrap/furnace insulation)?**

SOCRRA does not accept these items. They must be delivered directly to any licensed sanitary landfill in yellow garbage bags labeled "asbestos". They can't be compacted in a garbage truck or through a transfer station because the harmful fibers will become airborne.

### **Can I bring in gasoline?**

Only through the Household Hazardous Waste program. Residents (no businesses) can call to set up an appointment (248-288-5153). Gasoline must be brought in a State Fire Marshal-approved container (not a milk jug). We cannot return your container since we don't dump the fuel; we simply place your container in a 55 gallon drum for disposal.

### **Where can I get compost?**

It's available and free only to residents in SOCRRA communities (Berkley, Beverly Hills, Birmingham, Clawson, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak and Troy). Call your City's Department of Public Works to ask about availability. If you would like to purchase a large quantity of compost, call Mike Czuprenski at (248) 288-5150.

### **What about fluorescent light bulbs?**

These are accepted through the Household Waste program. Call (248) 288-5153 for an appointment if you live in the cities of Berkley, Beverly Hills, Birmingham, Clawson, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak or Troy. **NO BUSINESSES.**

### **Will SOCRRA accept thermometers?**

SOCRRA will only accept thermometers that are not broken from residents in member communities. Call (248) 288-5153 for an appointment if you live in the cities of Berkley, Beverly Hills, Birmingham, Clawson, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak or Troy. **NO BUSINESSES.** Unfortunately, we cannot accept broken thermometers and/or carpet from a spill. Call your County Health Department.

### **What about disposal of auto parts?**

SOCRRA doesn't take engines. Try a junk yard. However, SOCRRA will take metal doors, metal bumpers, etc. FREE as scrap metal at the Troy Transfer Station.

### **Where can I get a truck weighed?**

SOCRRA has a certified scale at the Troy MRF and will provide weight and ticket for \$6.

### **What are the hours to bring in items for disposal at the Troy Transfer Station? See [CHARGE](#) below.**

For hand unloading:

Weekdays: 7 a.m.-6 p.m. (8 a.m.-4 p.m. in winter)

Saturdays: 7 a.m.-2 p.m. (8 a.m.-2 p.m. in winter)

### **What are the hours to bring in items for disposal at the Madison Heights Transfer Station? See [CHARGE](#) below.**

For hand unloading trailers or pick-up trucks:

Weekdays: 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturdays: Closed.

### **What are the hours at the **Compost Site**?**

For receipt of grass and leaves from Rochester Hills residents, or for sale of compost to individuals:

Weekdays: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturdays: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Closed in winter.

**CHARGE** - Current rate for non-member disposal (hand unloading) is:

\*Garbage and Bulky Waste - \$56/ton (\$31 minimum)

\*Yard waste - \$51/ton (\$31 minimum)

## *Charitable Organizations*

**American Council for the Blind:** 4200 E. Nine Mile Road, Warren Accepts household items such as  
Hours: 9:00 am - 9:00 pm, Mon - Fri clothing, all furniture, small and large 313-336-5455 (for pick-ups)  
working appliances, etc.

**Capuchin Services:** 1620 E. Grand Blvd, Detroit Serves homeless families leaving  
Hours: 8:30 am - 4:00 pm, Mon - Fri shelters who must set up new 8:30 am - 1:00 pm, Sat households with beds,  
appliances and 313-925-0514 furniture

**Kidney Foundation:** 37665 S. Gratiot, Clinton Township Accepts household furnishings, 586-465-0408  
appliances, shoes, clothes, books, toys, etc.

**St. Vincent DePaul:** 750 N. Perry, Pontiac Accepts household furnishings, Hours: 7:30 am - 6:00 pm,  
Mon - Fri appliances, misc. 248-338-2060 <http://www.svdpdet.org/WishList.html>

**Salvation Army - Thrift Store:** 21810 John R. Road, Hazel Park Can only accept small items that can  
fit Hours: 7:30 am - 6:00 pm, Mon - Fri in bags or boxes at this location. 248-546-9094

**Salvation Army - Thrift Store:** 114 E. 4th St., Royal Oak Accepts household furnishings, Hours: 9:30  
am - 4:00 pm, Mon - Fri appliances, misc. 248-542-6661

## *Concrete*

**State Crushing:** 2260 Auburn Road, Rochester Hills Accepts broken concrete and bricks. Hours: 7:00  
am - 7:00 pm, Mon - Fri There is a \$10.00 fee for hand unloading 248-332-6210 between April -  
November. No fee in the winter.

**Detroit Recycling Center:** 9940 Roselawn, Detroit Accepts concrete 313-934-7677

**T.J. Fiore:** Accepts concrete 33300 Mound Rd., Sterling Hts. 586-939-6200

## *Tires*

**SOCRRA:** 995 Coolidge, Royal Oak; Accepts 2 tires per load, for a fee 248-288-5150

## *Questions?*

**SOCRRA:** 995 Coolidge, Royal Oak, call: 248-288-5150, [www.socrra.org](http://www.socrra.org)  
Department of Public Service: 1600 N Campbell, Royal Oak, Call (248)246-3300

## **SOCRRA Recycling Drop-Off Center – Visit [www.socrra.org](http://www.socrra.org) for current information.**

For recyclables, including items not accepted curbside. [More info](#)

- 995 Coolidge, Troy (between 14 Mile and Maple, across from Meijer) [Map](#)
- Open to the public.
- Monday thru Friday 7:00 am – 6:00 pm and Saturday 7:00 am – 2:00 pm.
- Paper Shredder Hours: Monday thru Friday 8:00 am – 3:30 pm and Saturday 8:00 am – 12 noon
- NO CHARGE for Recycling Drop-Off Center.
- Appliances recycled for FREE if labeled with “Freon Removed” sticker. Fee for Freon Removal - \$20.

## **Household Hazardous Waste Disposal and Electronics Recycling**

- [More Information](#)
- 995 Coolidge, Troy (between 14 Mile and Maple, across from Meijer) [Map](#)
- Available to SOCRRA residents and residents of City of Bloomfield Hills (no businesses).
- By appointment only – Schedule appointment [online](#) or call for morning or afternoon block of time – (248)288-5153.
- NO CHARGE for HHW disposal and Electronics Recycling.

## **SOCRRA MRF**

Certified Truck Scale, Purchase Recycling Bins, Recycling Processing Facility.

- 995 Coolidge, Troy (between 14 Mile and Maple, across from Meijer) [Map](#)
- Monday thru Friday 7:00 am – 4:00 pm.
- Truck Weight Rate: \$6 ticket.
- Recycling Bins available for purchase: \$12 each.

## **Transfer Station**

For Trash Disposal and Yard Waste Composting.

- 991 Coolidge, Troy (between 14 Mile and Maple, across from Meijer) [Map](#)
- Monday thru Friday 7:00 am – 6:00 pm and Saturday 7:00 am – 2:00 pm.
- Trash Rate: \$60/ton with \$35 minimum charge.
- Yard Waste Rate: \$60/ton with \$35 minimum charge. SOCRRA residents can bring Christmas trees and yard waste for composting during winter months free of charge.

## **SOCRRA Compost Site**

Screened and Cured Compost Available.

- 1741 School Road, Rochester Hills (south of Avon Road, between Dequindre and John R.) [Map](#)
- Monday thru Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.
- SOCRRA residents and residents of Rochester Hills can shovel their own compost FREE OF CHARGE. \$5 for residents of all other communities.
- \$5 per cubic yard with \$15 minimum for loading by SOCRRA bucket loader.

## Backyard Composting is Easy!

Composting is nature's own recycling system. Leaves, grass, and other organic matter that fall to the ground provide a home and food supply for nature's recycler's--bacteria, worms, and other microorganisms. These organisms feed on the plant material, breaking them down, and turning them into a dark, nutrient rich product called **COMPOST**.

### Compost .....

- improves plant nutrition
- holds moisture in sandy soil
- improves compacted soil
- extends the useful life of our landfills

### Compost Rules and Guidelines-PLEASE READ

Compost piles must be contained in an enclosed bin. Please avoid using wood structures. Wood is an attractive home for rodents. Sources for compost bins:

- [www.composters.com](http://www.composters.com) - Over 100 different types of bins at various prices
- Retail stores such as Bordine's, Smith & Hawkin, most lawn and garden centers
- Hardware stores for materials such as chicken wire

Improper compost piles may be ordered to be removed if they cause odor, pest/rodent nuisances or are not in a proper bin. Following the guidelines below on how to build and maintain your pile will help to avoid this.

Please avoid composting any food items. Again, not properly composting food items can also cause potential problems.

### MATERIALS TO COMPOST:

Tree leaves, sod, grass clippings, hay, straw, weeds, chopped corn stalk or cobs, sawdust, shredded newspaper, wood ashes, hedge clippings, and many kinds of plant refuse from the garden.

### DO NOT ADD TO COMPOST:

- Any food items, raw or cooked (to avoid pest & odor problems)
- Diseased plants
- Weeds gone to seed
- Charcoal ashes or briquets

### HOW DO I DO IT?

Recipe to Build a Pile

- +50% Brown Materials (leaves, hay or straw, dead plants; carbon source)
- +25% Green materials (grass clippings)
- +25% Soil or compost (soil contains microorganism that help to break down materials)
- = 100% of a compost pile



1. Start with a layer of brush or branches
2. Add layers of leaves, grass clippings, and soil, then repeat
3. As you build the pile, dampen layers with water. Keep the pile as damp as a wrung out sponge.
4. Turn pile from time to time. Could be once a week, or once a month depending on how much you want to do it.

### **Turning your Pile**

One of the keys to a successful compost pile is to turn the pile from time to time. This helps your pile in a couple of ways:

- Speeds up decomposition
- Can help to alleviate some odors

Turning everyday could be detrimental causing all the heat in the center of the pile to escape. Instead, try turning once a week and see how that works.

### **Using the Finished Product**

Finished compost can be used in the following ways:

Add to your garden in the spring or fall. Turn the garden soil and apply a 1-3 inch layer of compost.

Compost can be mixed with either garden soil or potting soil in a 50-50 ratio to use for container gardening. The compost adds nutrients and texture to encourage plant growth.

Compost can also be used as a mulch. Spread compost around any garden plants, under bushes, and around trees. For young plants, a 2-3 inch layer of compost often works well. Mulching helps hold in moisture, reduces weeds, and gradually feeds organic matter to the soil and plant roots. Compost is especially useful as mulch in the hottest, driest periods of the summer.

The Dept of Public Services has more information sheets on compost. Call 246-3300 for yours today.

### **Grasscycling or Mulching**

Let those grass clippings fall where they may!

Composting sounds like too much work? What about bagging clippings during each mow? Grasscycling may be the solution for you!

Letting the grass clippings simply stay on the lawn has proven beneficial in several ways:

1. Saves you time and effort
2. Reduces the need for fertilizer
3. Saves you money---in Royal Oak it's a \$1/bag or container to dispose of yard waste
4. Protects the environment

The most common myth about grass cycling is that clippings DO NOT cause thatch. Clippings are 85% water and therefore break back down quite easily into your lawn. Thatch is the remains of the woody portions of the grass plants and is often the result of over-fertilizing and excessive watering.

### **Choosing a Lawnmower**

It is possible that the mower you now own may be used for mulching. Always take to a local dealer to make sure. If the machine is not properly designed, hazards could arise such as flying sticks and stones that could seriously injure you and those around you.

A mulching blade or an adapter kit may be available for your mower for a reasonable cost (under \$60 dollars).

Mulching blades differ from regular blades by the longer cutting edge, a feature which allows it to "cut & recut" the grass blades and then redirect the clippings to the lawn, rather than to a bag.

For more information, contact the Public Services Department, 246-3300, or your local lawnmower dealer.

**City of Royal Oak Private Property**  
**Inspection Check List**

Property Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / 2004

Time \_\_\_\_\_

The following items are known to contribute to rodent harborage and rodent food sources. **Removing these items from your lot will greatly reduce your chance of having a rodent infestation on your property.** Please remove any of the items indicated below immediately:

- Remove unlicensed and/or inoperable vehicle(s) from property.
- Remove all nesting materials from sheds, garage or yard. These include but are not limited to: carpeting, rope, string, cardboard, paper, wood, wood chips, tree branches, automobile tires, hay or straw.
- Remove all appliances from exterior property areas including but not limited to: Air conditioners, washing machines, dryers and refrigerators.
- Remove all leaves and cut tall grass; trim shrubs so that they don't lie directly on the ground. Remove all weeds and overgrowth from flowerbeds.
- Remove all sources of water including but not limited to: stagnant water on pool covers, leaking water spigots, birdbaths, fishponds and any low areas that hold water.
- Remove all edible products from sheds, garages or yard. Including, but not limited to the following: birdseed (do not leave any seed on the ground, clean-up daily), flower seed, animal food, flower bulbs, animal feces, pet food and water dishes, fruits from fruit trees.
- Elevate all wood, including firewood 18" off the ground or store on a concrete or asphalt surface or dispose of properly.
- Store all trash in metal or plastic garbage cans with tight fitting lids. Inspect cans for holes and replace when necessary.
- Replace/repair any and all rotted or missing siding or trim on garages and sheds.

**If you have any questions regarding any of the above, please contact the Code Enforcement Representative listed below.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Code Enforcement

(248) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

**The following list contains the names of licensed extermination companies that work in the City of Royal Oak:**

- ◆ **Absolute Pest Control**  
326 Redwood Drive  
Troy, MI 48083  
248-585-5554
  
- ◆ **Affordable Pest Control**  
535 W Eleven Mile Road  
Madison Heights, MI 48071  
248-544-6399
  
- ◆ **American Pest Control**  
1012 Elmsford  
Troy, MI 48083  
248-585-2600
  
- ◆ **Chalker Jordan & Burgess Pest Control**  
31505 Grand River Ent 14 Ste, 1  
Farmington Hills, MI 48336  
248-615-0110  
800-264-3526
  
- ◆ **Eradico Pest Control**  
1030 Woodward Heights  
Ferndale, MI  
359-546-6200
  
- ◆ **Great Lakes Pest Control**  
3690 Eleven Mile Road  
Berkley, MI 48072  
248-548-3030
  
- ◆ **Invaders Pest Control Inc.**  
1126 Fort Street  
Lincoln Park, MI 48146  
313-294-0333
  
- ◆ **Pest Arrest Exterminating, LLC**  
2919 Maplewood  
Royal Oak, MI 48073  
248-246-1850
  
- ◆ **Rose Exterminator Co.**  
2145 Heide  
Troy, MI 48146  
800-564-0510

**The area that will be surveyed will be East of the Grand Trunk Railroad, West of N. Main St., North of Catalpa and South of Magnolia.**



**The following streets will be surveyed.**

- |                     |                   |                      |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. North Pleasant   | 11. Crooks        | 21. Waverly          |
| 2. North Edgewood   | 12. Catalpa       | 22. Twelve Mile Road |
| 3. Marywood         | 13. Derby         | 23. Cherry           |
| 4. North Maple      | 14. Mayfield      | 24. Mary             |
| 5. Maxwell          | 15. Cloverdale    | 25. Walnut           |
| 6. Hilldale         | 16. Greenleaf     | 26. West Houstonia   |
| 7. North Lafayette  | 17. Woodsboro     | 27. LaPlaza Court    |
| 8. North Washington | 18. Orchard Grove | 28. Lloyd            |
| 9. North Center     | 19. Euclid        | 29. Aqua             |
| 10. North Main St.  | 20. Cedarhill     | 30. Aqua Court       |

*Property  
Maintenance  
Standards  
February, 2004*

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**City of Royal Oak - Building Department  
Code Enforcement Division  
211 S Williams Street, Royal Oak, Michigan 48067**

*Introduction*

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The Courts have held that Building Codes and Ordinances cannot set unreasonable standards. One test is to ask whether an ordinance would be reasonable if it were enforced against your own property. It is sometimes easier to find fault with another person than to see the same fault on your own property. What may be “deferred maintenance” to you could be a blighting situation in the eyes of a neighbor.

This is what makes Code Enforcement a difficult task. People have different standards for the way they maintain their homes and businesses. Some would not permit a blade of grass left untrimmed, while a neighbor might not find it objectionable to leave the grass uncut for weeks.

It becomes the City’s job to set standards which meet with the approval of most citizens. So, when you find fault with a neighbor’s house, yard or fence, what you object to must be a clear violation of some code, ordinance, or other law established by the City.

To try to assure that properties are maintained in an acceptable manner, the City of Royal Oak has adopted a number of regulatory ordinances. They are often referred to as “public nuisance” ordinances and are intended to eliminate property conditions which are objectionable.

The City has immediate control of the physical condition of the City streets, rights-of-way, parks, and public buildings (limited only by fiscal restraints). However, the City has no direct control over private property. What citizens or owners do, or fail to do, on their own property cannot be controlled by the City, unless a specific ordinance is violated.

The following information is a compilation of the most commonly requested information. It is not a complete listing of all ordinances of the City of Royal Oak. Copies of all ordinances are available at the City of Royal Oak’s City Clerk’s Office.

# ***M a i n t e n a n c e***

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## ***Existing Buildings***

All existing buildings (including garages, sheds and buildings of every type, but does not include children's playhouses or treehouses) must be maintained in accordance with 1993 BOCA National Property Maintenance Code. (City of Royal Oak Ordinance 93-15, adopted 10/18/93).

- Brick and masonry surfaces must be maintained free of cracks and loose mortar.
- Roofs must be weather proof and properly maintained with appropriate materials.
- Windows and doors are required to be properly glazed without cracks or holes and supplied with screens where required.
- All exterior wall areas must be properly surface coated with paint or appropriate siding materials.
- Buildings already painted must be maintained free of chipping and peeling.

## ***Porches & Stairs***

Porches, stairs and railings must be kept in sound condition and good repair.

## ***Exterior Property Areas***

All exterior property areas must be maintained clean and orderly free of litter, debris, rubbish, and auto parts, building materials, and junk.

## ***F e n c e s*** (City of Royal Oak Ordinance 91-17)

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***No permit is required to erect a fence, but a copy of the ordinance should be obtained prior to installation.***

### ***Height***

- No fence or privacy screen may exceed 6 feet in height.
- No fence located in the front yard may exceed 4 feet in height.
- Corner lot fences may not exceed 3 feet in height above the lowest level of adjacent roadways for 20 feet along each property line where they meet at a corner.
- No screening, or low-visibility fence located within 10 feet of a driveway / sidewalk intersection may exceed 3 feet in height.

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### ***Installation (Materials / Maintenance)***

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- New fences may not be attached to existing fences.
  - No barbed or razor wire is permitted in residential areas.
  - Fences and posts must be of like materials (e.g., cyclone fencing on metal posts, wood fencing on wood posts). Vinyl fences are allowed within the City.
  - All posts, cross members and hardware must face the interior of the property of the person erecting the fence, as of November, 1991.
  - Old or used materials may not be used in fence repair or construction.
  - All fences must be maintained in good repair.

### ***Location***

- No fence may encroach on public property.
- Fences not mutually or jointly owned must be located **entirely** on the property of the person erecting the fence.
- The City is not responsible for setting property lines and will not mediate fence or property line disputes between neighbors. This must be done by a licensed land surveyor or through legal action.

### ***Accessory Structures***

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- A ***Building Permit*** is required for the building of a garage and/or storage shed (accessory structures) which is larger than 200 square feet.
- Accessory structures cannot be located within the required front or side setbacks of the main structure.
- Accessory structures cannot be located on easements and must be at least three (3) feet from property lines.
- All accessory structures must be maintained in accordance with the same standards which apply to other structures.
- All accessory structures less than 400 square feet require a minimum 12 inch concrete footings for rodent protection. Accessory structures larger than 400 square feet require min. 42" deep footings.
- Only ***one*** accessory structure is permitted per single family residence.

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Royal Oak residents should be aware of the City's recycling policies. For more information, please call our Department of Public Works at 246-3300 or visit <http://www.socrra.org>

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## ***Shrubs / Trees*** (City of Royal Oak Ordinance #320)

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### ***Use***

Trees on public property and rights-of-way may not be used for any purpose.

- No signs or other materials may be attached to trees.
- Trees may not be used as anchors or animal tethers.

### ***Maintenance***

- Trees on private property which overhang the public right-of-way must be kept properly trimmed by the property owner so that the view of street intersections are not blocked and there is an 8 foot clearance above the sidewalk and street.
- Owners of trees which overhang the public right-of-way must remove dead, diseased or dangerous trees and broken or decayed limbs.
- Branches that extend over an adjoining lot line may be trimmed by that owner straight up from the property line as long as the tree is not in danger of being killed by the trimming. This is a civil matter between neighbors.

### ***Special Considerations for Corner Lots***

- No shrub may be over 3 feet above the crown level of the road for the first 20 feet of property line in either direction at a corner.
- No shrub may exceed 3 feet above the crown level of the road for a distance of ten feet along each property line from any driveway / sidewalk intersection.

## ***Brush/Tree Trimmings***

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### ***Disposal***

- Tree branches, shrubs or hedge-type bushes between 2" and 5" in diameter can be cut into 4-foot lengths and tied securely into bundles weighing less than 40 pounds and not more than 15" in diameter and can be placed at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on your regular refuse day. Woody material less than 2" in diameter needs to be put with yard waste. Brush can not protrude from garbage cans and workers cannot reach in to dislodge contents. Logs larger than 5" in diameter are not picked up and must be disposed of privately.
- All properly bundled brush clippings will be picked up on regular collection day.

### ***Chipper Service***

Brush Chipping Service - The City's recommended contractor is JH Hart Urban Forestry. You can contact them directly or hire a private contractor.

JH Hart Urban Forestry, Phone: 586-795-5581

The following fees will apply:

The charge is \$40.00 for each 15 minutes of chipping. Residents must pay the contractor directly via cash, check or Credit Card. They will take a credit card via phone. Residents will be invoiced for all work over 15 minutes, in additional 15 minute increments. REMEMBER that you pay for the time spent at your stop; time spent to sort through materials to access brush to be chipped costs the same as actual chipping time.

Scope: Branches up to 6" in diameter, 4 foot or longer, neatly stacked at curb, shrubs without root-ball will also be picked up.

Contact JH Hart Urban Forestry if you require additional information regarding brush chipping service.

## ***Tall Grass and Weeds*** (Royal Oak Ordinance #62-13)

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- All scrub brush, grass and weeds on private property must be maintained under 12 inches at all times.
- Grass and weeds on vacant property and on public right-of-way in excess of 12 inches will be cut by City crews without individual notification and the property owner will be billed for all costs of removal.

It is the responsibility of the owner to maintain a property free of noxious weeds such as poison ivy, poison oak, poison sumac, etc.

## ***Rubbish*** (Royal Oak Ordinance #91-9)

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### ***Storage***

- Owners are responsible to provide either:  
waterproof metal rubbish containers with tight fitting covers 5-20 gallon capacity      *or*      closed, plastic rubbish can liners up to 30 gallon capacity
- Residential garbage must be wrapped and receptacles must be kept in the rear yard or inside the residence or garage.
- It is unlawful for owners of commercial or industrial properties to place any garbage, rubbish or waste materials outside a building except in permitted containers.
- It is unlawful for anyone to throw, deposit or bury garbage, rubbish or waste materials in public areas or on any others property.

### ***Collection***

- Waste containers are not to be set out at the curb prior to 5:00 PM of the day before collection, and no later than 7:00 AM on collection day and must be removed the same day as collection.
- No rubbish may be placed in an alley or in any private place unless suitably contained.
- Rubbish is to be placed between the curb and sidewalk in front of the building.

### ***Other Information***

- Owners of vacant properties must keep the property free of rubbish and debris and grass must be maintained under 12 inches.

## ***Miscellaneous Debris***

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- No person may store auto parts, iron, steel, brass, copper, tin, lead, rope, rags, rubber, bottles, glass, waste papers, tires etc., out of doors without a license for a Junk Yard.
- A license for a Junk Yard cannot be granted in a residentially zoned district and certain other commercial districts - see the Planning Department for details.

## ***Rodent Control*** (Royal Oak Ordinance #63-21)

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### ***Prevention***

- All building materials, lumber, boxes and similar items shall be stored either on ratproof paved areas or stacked 18 inches above the ground.
- Firewood must be stacked on platforms 18 inches above the ground, or on ratproof pavement.

### ***Extermination***

- Owners are responsible to contract for and / or provide extermination where rodent infestation occurs on private property.
- All sources of food must be eliminated if the rodent problem is to be eliminated. Rat infestation usually occurs as a result of improperly stored food or garbage.

## ***Vehicles*** (Royal Oak Ordinance #66-13)

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### ***Unlicensed / Inoperable Vehicles***

- Valid Michigan license plates must be displayed on the proper place of all vehicles at all times.
- In residential zones, no vehicle is to be in a state of major disassembly, disrepair, stripped or dismantled.
- Unlicensed and/or inoperable vehicles cannot be stored outside for a longer time than 48 hours, **but** may be housed inside a closed garage or be completely enclosed by a solid fence 6 feet in height.
- **No body work** (sanding, bumping, painting) is permitted in a residential zone.
- Unlicensed and/or inoperable vehicles properly listed “for sale” may be stored for 30 days.

### ***Commercial Vehicles***

- In residential zones, only one commercial vehicle, owned by an occupant, may be parked or housed on the premises.

### ***Parking of Vehicles*** (Royal Oak C Zoning Ordinance)

- Parking of vehicles in a front yard area other than a designated driveway is prohibited.

## ***Pets*** (Royal Oak Ordinance #61-22)

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- Pens, coops and yards must be maintained clean and sanitary, devoid of animal feces, rodents and vermin, and free from any objectionable odors.
- Pets may not cause an annoyance to the neighborhood with noise or objectionable odor.

***CONSTRUCTION ORDINANCE*** (Royal Oak Ordinance #92-14)

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Deliveries to a construction site are not permitted between the hours of 8:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M.. Making noise associated with construction is prohibited except during the hours of 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Monday through Saturday and 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. on Sunday.

Construction related materials or equipment, when stored on site, must be stored in an orderly manner and in such a way as to promote the public safety. All such materials and/or equipment must be covered and/or screened.

Sufficient refuse containers must be provided on site and utilized. Location of containers will be approved by the Building Inspector. Precautions must be taken so that dust, soil and other materials do not become airborne.

## *Phone Numbers*

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### **Building Inspection Department**

Main Office (248)246-3210

To schedule an inspection (24-hour line) (248)246-3234

### **Code Enforcement Department**

Main Office (248)246-3210

To report an ordinance violation (248)246-3238

### **Rehabilitation Program**

Homeowner Assistance (248)246-3130

### **Planning Department**

Planning & Zoning (248)246-3280