

# A GUIDE TO RAT TRAPPING

Thanks for joining Pest Free Pt Chev, our community-wide effort to control predator numbers in Pt Chevalier. Together we can protect and enhance native biodiversity in our little neighbourhood.

## CHOOSE A LOCATION

Along a wall or the top of a fence – rats like to follow them  
Near an obvious food source e.g. compost bin, rubbish area, fruiting trees etc.

Place it so that predators have a clear view through both ends – this will make them less cautious about entering.

Make the trap stable. Rats are put off by something that moves when they try to enter.

If you're not catching anything, try a different location.

## SET YOUR TRAP

Place the trap in the tunnel close to the removable grill. This means that the rat has to fully enter the tunnel to get at the bait

**By placing your trap in the wooden tunnel you:**

- Ensure kids, pets and birds cannot get hurt.
- Ensure rats approach the trap straight-on and are killed humanely.

## STAY SAFE

**Avoid injury** – keep fingers clear of the business end of the trap.

**Avoid infection** – wear gloves and wash hands after setting and clearing traps.

## RECORD YOUR CATCHES

To make our work more effective, we need to know when people are checking their traps and what they catch.

We will record catches on Trap.NZ so the data is available for researchers. It also helps create robust data if you record times when you check your trap and catch nothing. Record your catches by filling in the short form. It only takes a minute. Remember to bookmark the page.

LINK TO FORM [HERE!](#)

## BAIT

Use peanut butter – rats love it. Crunchy is best, but smooth is okay if that's all you've got. For a Victor trap, place it in the 'bait well' close the hinge on the yellow treadle plate.

You can also try Nutella, cheese, mayonnaise, or even chocolate buttons.

## CHECK YOUR TRAP

Check your traps at least twice a week (if you can).

A trap with a dead rat in it isn't ready to catch another one.

Insects often eat the peanut butter, and a trap with no bait isn't going to catch a rat.

Disposing of a freshly-killed rat is more pleasant than dealing with a long-dead one.

## DISPOSALS

Drop your catches into your compost bin and cover with compost.

Drop them into your outside rubbish bin and it will magically be taken away.

## CONTACT US

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