

Environmental Conservation. To check, call 718-482-4994 or visit dec.ny.gov.

- Work closely with the pest professional, be clear about what you want done and monitor their performance. Restaurant operators should closely inspect the outdoor dining space with the pest professional every time they visit and work with them to eliminate rats.
- If rats are burrowing or living within the dining structure, you **must pause outdoor dining service** while your pest professional eliminates the rats and treats the area. You may also need to renovate your outdoor space to discourage rats before resuming dining service.
- If you have a raised platform, have the pest professional install tamper-resistant rodent bait stations around the perimeter and monitor the area for signs of rodent activity. Using unsecured bait or tracking powder is prohibited, as it can be tracked and spread by rats, contaminating dining areas.

Keep Rats Out of Nearby Street Trees

- The rules of the Open Restaurant program (which allow qualifying restaurants and bars to expand outdoor seating on sidewalks, curb lanes, backyards, patios, plazas and open streets) prohibit dining elements from covering, shading or coming in contact with a street tree, or from being within one foot of a City tree. Having your structure next to a street tree promotes rat activity and can harm the tree. If your dining structure is already near street trees, you must take steps to prevent rats and protect the tree.
 - If burrow holes are present in street trees, have your pest professional treat the rat burrows or install tamper-resistant bait stations.
 - Hardware cloth (1/2-inch mesh; 16 gauge galvanized) can be installed as a permeable surface in tree pits to exclude rats from returning to the burrows post-treatment. Do not use chicken wire — rats can easily get through it.
 - This work requires a tree work permit from the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. To apply for a permit, visit nycgovparks.org/services/forestry/forestry-application.
 - Do not use cement, glass or other hazardous materials in the tree bed that may harm the tree or pets that can dig into the bed. Cementing a street tree is strictly prohibited.
 - Clean the areas around the tree frequently and never place garbage on or near the tree.
 - Move or change your outdoor dining set up to comply with Open Restaurant rules if your dining elements cover, shade or come in contact with a street tree, or are within one foot of a City tree.

Construct or Renovate Your Dining Structures to Prevent Pests

- Any empty space created by the dining structure can become rodent “harborage” — a place where rodents hide or nest. This includes gaps underneath your dining structure and the space inside the walls of your structure if it has an empty interior. To control pests, these areas must be easily available for inspection and cleaning. Build your structure or make these renovations so that the floor and wall voids are accessible: