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## Madison sees increase in rats

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MADISON, Wis. (WMTV) ---There's an increase in reports of rat infestations in some Madison neighborhoods according to Public Health – Madison & Dane County (PHMDC).

PHMDC has just released a video, "Protect Your Home from Rats".

"Madison is a clean city and residents really take pride in their homes, but the reality is that rats are out there. We made this video as a resource for members of our community to learn what to do to prevent rat problems," says John Hausbeck, Environmental Health Supervisor for PHMDC.

Experts said rats are not new to our area. Sometimes the population of rats surges. These surges are related to the access to food and shelter that many of us provide in our yards and homes. They suggest getting rid of that access to food and shelter, and people can control the rat populations and prevent infestations.

"Rat infestations can take hold in neighborhoods quickly. You can prevent a rat problem in your neighborhood by making sure your property is not rat-friendly. Encourage your neighbors to do the same, or their rat problem will eventually become your rat problem. Fall is an especially good time to be taking preventive action, as this is the time of year that rats and mice look to move into our homes," advises Hausbeck.