

# ICHEK

## Rat problems could cost you thousands

By Dean Stoltzon, November 9 2016, Canada

*Experts say rats on Vancouver Island bred through last winter which is unusual causing an increase in numbers and problems for people.*



“You’ll open up the hood and this is what you’ll see, you’ll have nuts, seeds and you’ll have droppings all over the place” said Wade McPhedrain, owner of Wade’s Auto Works in Courtenay.

And finding these things under your hood is usually the first tell-tale sign that someone’s engine trouble isn’t just a mechanical breakdown.

“Yeah usually they go in the morning and start it and the check engine light comes on and they’re running really rough” added McPhedrain in an interview with CHEK News.

And the culprit more often than not ends up being a rat looking for a dark, dry, warm place to hide with something to eat.

“They’ll crawl underneath intake manifolds, they’ll chew wires that aren’t supposed to be chewable, probably because they’re all soy-based, the wiring, but I’ve seen them eat diesel lines right through diesel” said McPhedrain.

Repairs can be expensive often exceeding \$1000 depending how much time is required to find and fix the chewed wires.

Wade is seeing it almost every day.

“Just about every car we get in here has mice or rat droppings under the hood. Probably at least 80% and we get cars towed in every day that don’t because from rats chewing the wires” he said.

And there is not much you can do. CHEK News reached out to several pest control companies Wednesday but they are literally running off their feet right now and could not make time for an on-camera interview.

They did say rats in the area bred right through last winter which is unusual and would explain the infestation.