

# Rats Run Wild In Mayfair As Northeast Philly Blocks Beg For Backup

*Joshua Doyle*

In parts of Northeast Philadelphia, neighbors say the rats are winning. Blocks in Mayfair and the surrounding streets are dealing with rodents burrowing through lawns, chewing up car wiring and turning what used to be easy evening strolls into full-on stress walks.

Dawn Amoriello, who lives on Friendship Street, told reporters the rats have become overwhelming and that "you can't get rid of them." Neighbors say the damage is adding up fast. One vehicle owner on Tyson Avenue reported about \$1,800 in repairs after rats chewed through wiring, and Mary Martin in Mayfair called the situation "absolutely disgusting." These accounts were reported by [6abc](#).

Local leaders say they are trying to push back, but it is an uphill fight. City Councilman Mike Driscoll, State Rep. Jared Solomon and Adrian Jordan from the city's Vector Control unit are coordinating cleanup and baiting efforts across roughly 20 blocks. Solomon told Action News the infestations are tied in part to improper trash disposal, neglected properties and abandoned cars.

Jordan is also working with a tiny team. Solomon noted that "Mr. Jordan is one staffer at Vector Control; there are only about four serving the entire city," and officials say they are trying to hire more workers and distribute trash cans to limit burrows, according to [6abc](#).

## How Residents Can Report Rats And What The City Can Do

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health's Vector Control unit responds to complaints, can inspect specific addresses and may apply treatment when necessary. Residents are asked to report rat sightings through 311 or by contacting Vector Control directly.

Callers should provide the numbered street address and contact information so inspectors can follow up. The city says inspectors may treat the site the same day if needed and will also recommend prevention steps.

Property owners are required to keep their premises free of rodent harborage, and the Department of Licenses & Inspections requires rodent-control plans for certain demolition and vacant-lot projects, according to the [City of Philadelphia](#) and the city's [Licenses & Inspections regulations](#).

## Not Just Mayfair: Citywide Headaches

Mayfair is not alone in dealing with four-legged invaders. A recent report found a rat-infested sinkhole in Port Richmond where neighbors say they have waited months for permanent sewer and street repairs, a delay that residents say has only made the rat

activity worse. The situation highlights how infrastructure and sanitation problems can turbocharge infestations and why officials argue that rodent control has to include both enforcement and basic city repairs, as [NBC10](#) documented.

### **Legal Rules And Enforcement Efforts**

Philadelphia code and Licenses & Inspections rules put the responsibility on property owners to remove conditions that attract rodents. Chronic or severe violations can lead to notices, fines or city-ordered abatement under existing regulations.

Local leaders say writing tickets will not be enough to tame the seasonal surge. They point instead to a mix of solutions: sustained staffing at Vector Control, secure trash containers and consistent community cooperation. Without all three, they warn, neighborhoods will keep feeling like the rats are calling the shots.