

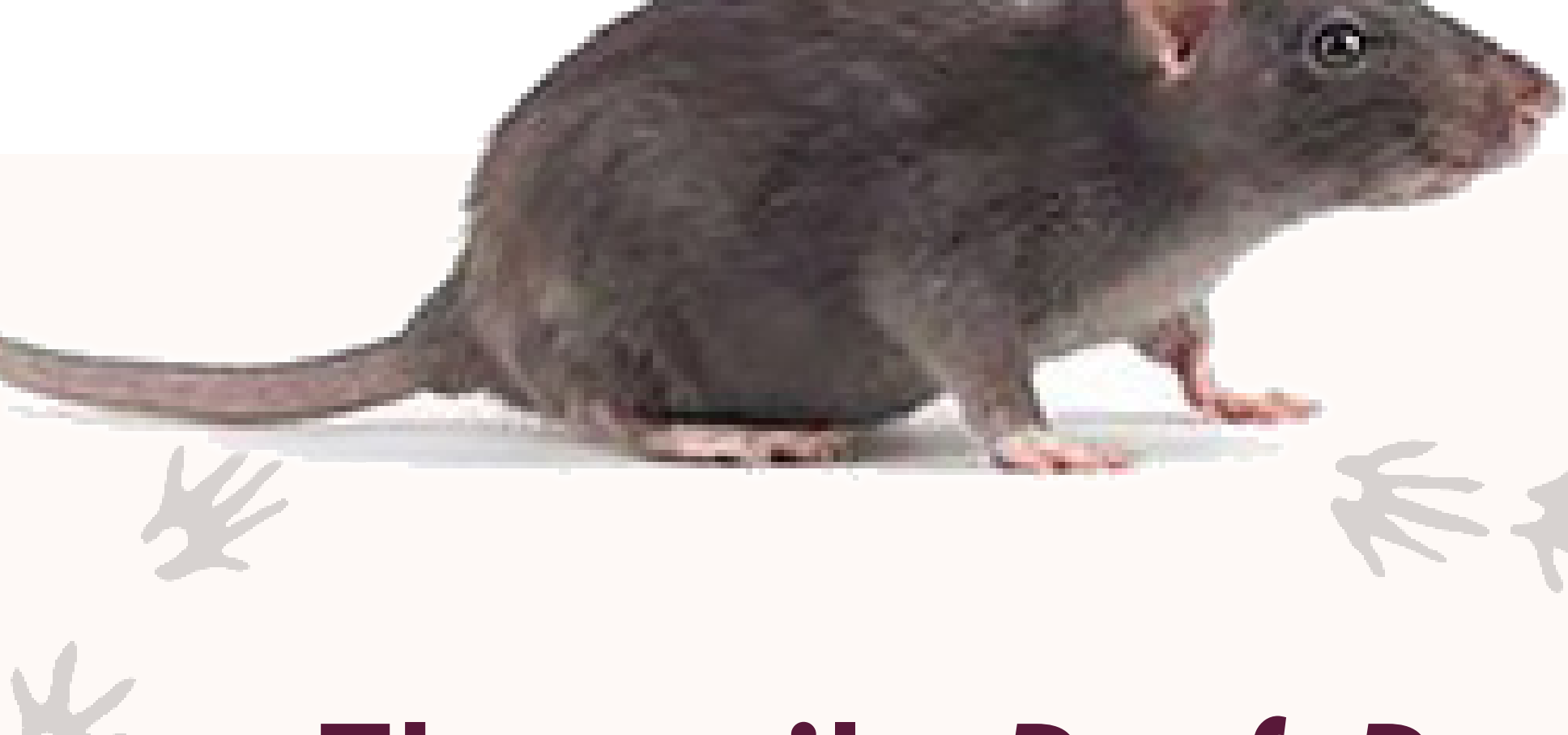
SEASON OF THE RAT



For most people, the winter season offers a welcomed break from the normal heat and humidity we experience through the summer months. But for our local variety of rodents, the winter means scarcity of food and lack of warmth...and that means cozying up to their human neighbors.

Florida's predominant rat species are the Norway and the Roof rat. The Norway rat is larger and more aggressive than the roof rat. They naturally swim well and hunt for prey animals, especially birds.

Norway rats are the larger of the two and prefer to nest in ground burrows where they stay low while searching for food. Their presence can be identified by their droppings, rub marks, gnawing or worn trails through grass.



The agile *Roof Rat* enters homes from tree limbs and roof gaps. They can weigh up to a half-pound.



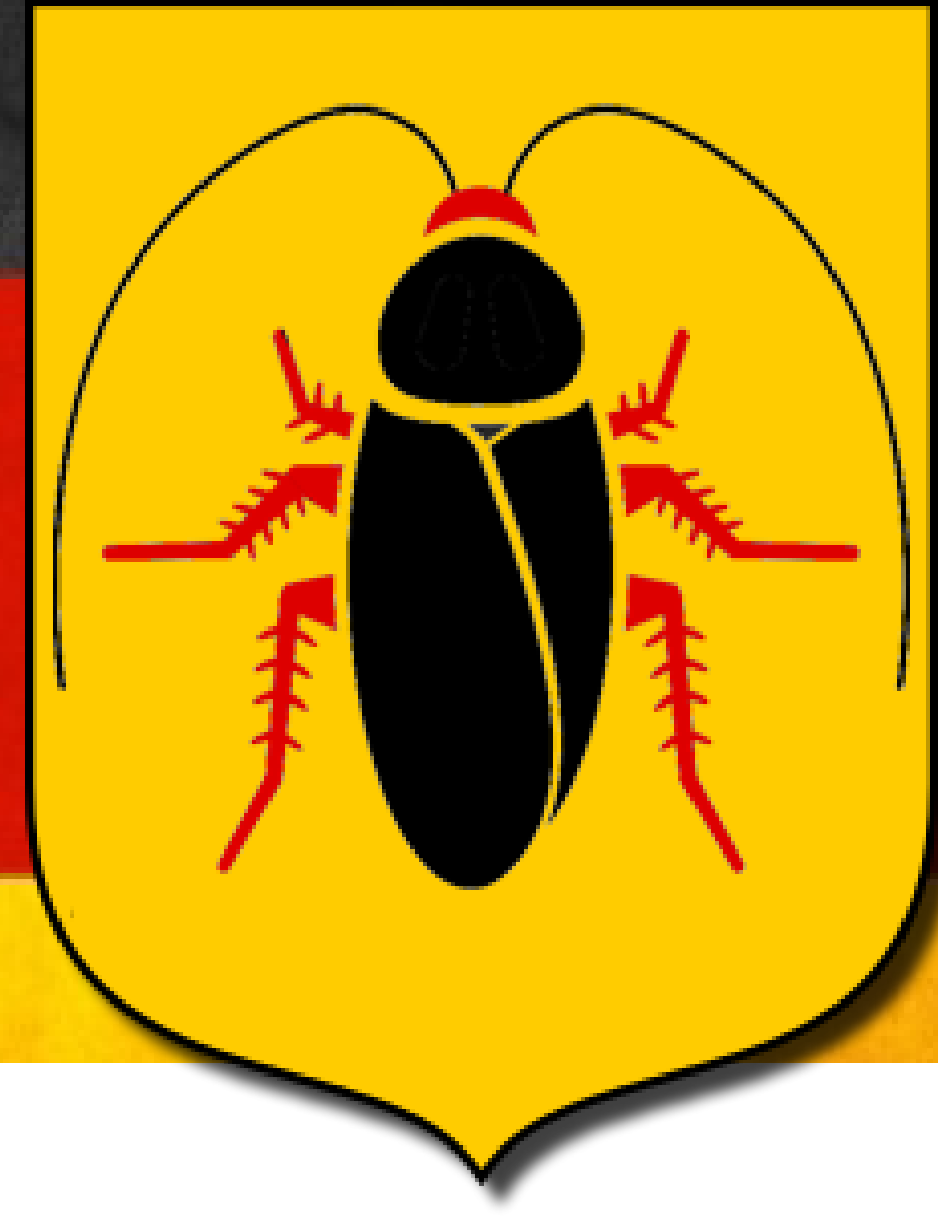
The larger *Norway Rat* burrows underground and can weigh up to one pound!

The roof rat arrived in North America earlier than the Norway rat, but once the more aggressive Norway rat reached the United States, roof rats began to decline. Roof rats tend to dominate in coastal cities or along waterways in warmer climates

As their name implies, roof rats are arboreal and are more likely to infest higher structural areas, such as attics, soffits, drop ceilings and upper wall voids. They do very well in neighborhoods with mature landscaping - especially if it includes fruit and nut trees, and easily travel along fences, through trees, on utility lines and into rooftops (yes - that noise you've heard in the attic could be a foraging roof rat!).

The danger of increased rodent activity includes risk of property damage and the spread of disease. But don't worry, your Deans Home Pest program includes remedial rodent control; and our service specialists are trained to locate rodent traffic areas and execute a control program to remove the intruders from under your roof!

THE DREADED GERMAN ROACH



A 2021 online poll conducted by Pest Strategy revealed that the most reviled insect among Americans is the cockroach – and by a considerable margin.

Over 27% of the participants voted roaches as the creepiest, with spiders at a distant second place with 13%. But while roaches as a whole may be the most hated, the most infamous species is surely the German cockroach.

This is likely because German roaches are so closely associated with unsanitary conditions and have the ability to reproduce viciously inside homes.

Their secret to reproductive success lies in their close association with humans. While many outdoor roaches feed on decaying plant matter, Germans prefer to stay inside and feed on sweets, fats, and proteins. Their ability to feed on such a wide variety of food, contributes toward their ability to reproduce quickly.

Another contributing factor is how they lay their eggs. While most cockroach species drop their egg capsules, these cautious roaches carry theirs until the eggs are ready to hatch, which helps ensure the brood's survival.



APPEARANCE

Small (1/2") and tan with two dark bands behind the head.



BEHAVIOR

Commonly observed scurrying at night in areas near food and water.



SIGNS

Pepper-like droppings inside cabinets is a sign you may have an infestation.

You may recall from our recent newsletter that an American Roach egg case will hatch about 15 roaches. German egg cases, by contrast, contain around 40! Worse still, the time it takes those roaches to mature and reproduce is the shortest among roaches!

If you should suspect a German roach infestation, don't hesitate to call! The sooner we can address the matter, the quicker the elimination.

DEANS Customer Questions

"Can I Transfer My Current Termite Protection to Deans?"

Gregory Towne, Customer Service Manager

Absolutely! Most homeowners are unaware that they're not required to stay with the Pest Control provider that originally treated their home.

In fact, many times original providers may require expensive "trench-and-treat" applications every several years in addition to annual renewal fees. This is not the case with Deans.

We'll never require that you pay for a full treatment provided that you keep your annual warranty up to date. This savings really adds up!

In addition, Deans termite-detection K9s ensure that your home is well-protected for the duration of your warranty. Why trust your home to anything less?

Tap the shield below for more info!

