



sanitation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NYC Rats Are Fleeing – for an incredible 12 Straight Months!

311 reports of rat sightings have fallen every month since residential containerization requirements went into effect last November

The New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) announced today that rats are on the run: In a shocking development, rat sightings reported to 311 have declined for 12 straight months when compared to the same month one year earlier, representing an overall decline of more than 20 percent.

The flight of the rats coincides with the requirement last November that all buildings with 1 to 9 residential units put their trash in sealed bins, removing a significant source of rat food from our streets. This persistent, ongoing decline in rat sightings proves that a cleaner city IS possible.

In addition, all New York City businesses have been required to put their trash in sealed bins for roughly two years. And all food waste – from all businesses and all residences – is required to be in sealed bins. Taken together, these rules mean that more than 70 percent of New York City trash is required to be in containers, a true Trash Revolution.

DSNY is also coming for the remaining 30 percent of trash: Last June, Manhattan Community Board 9 – covering all of West Harlem – became the [first neighborhood to fully containerize its trash](#), with the installation of on-street Empire Bins for trash from high-density residential buildings. Next year, [Empire Bins will be in Brooklyn Community Board 2](#), making it the second district in the city to fully containerize its trash.

From December 2023 to November 2024, New York City residents reported 25,230 rat sightings. For the same period one year later, that number plummeted to 20,025, a 20.6 percent decline. A month-by-month breakdown follows:

November

2025: 931
2024: 1,537
Change: -606
Percentage Change: -39.4

October

2025: 1,367
2024: 2,086
Change: -719
Percentage Change: -34.5

September

2025: 1,845
2024: 2,452
Change: -607
Percentage Change: -24.8

August

2025: 2,141
2024: 2,644
Change: -503
Percentage Change: -19.0

July

2025: 2,182
2024: 2,743
Change: -561
Percentage Change: -20.5

June

2025: 2,319
2024: 2,500
Change: -181
Percentage Change: -7.2

May

2025: 2,118
2024: 2,733
Change: -615
Percentage Change: -22.5

April

2025: 1,835
2024: 2,103
Change: -268
Percentage Change: -12.7

March

2025: 1,807
2024: 1,833
Change: -26
Percentage Change: -1.4

February

2025: 1,242
2024: 1,672
Change: -430
Percentage Change: -25.7

January

2025: 1,320
2024: 1,742
Change: -422
Percentage Change: -24.2

December

2024: 918
2023: 1,185
Change: -267
Percentage Change: -22.5

About the New York City Department of Sanitation

The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) keeps New York City clean, safe, and healthy by collecting, recycling, and disposing of waste, cleaning streets, attacking the scourge of illegal dumping, and clearing snow and ice. The Department operates 59 district garages and manages a fleet of more than 2,000 rear-loading collection trucks, 450 mechanical brooms, 705 salt spreaders, and several dozen bike lane operations machines. Under the Adams Administration, the Department is aggressively cleaning more parts of the City than ever before, including over 1,000 long-ignored areas spread across every neighborhood. With the highest wintertime uniformed headcount in 20 years, DSNY is more equipped than ever to remove snow and ice from the approximately 19,000 lane-miles of City streets.