



# sanitation

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## **The Trash Revolution, Year One: New Data Shows Sustained Decrease in Rat Sightings**

*Containerization works!*

**New York** – New data proves that the Trash Revolution – Mayor Adams’ signature commitment to getting the bags of trash off our streets once and for all – is working, with rat sightings reported to 311 [declining in 11 of the 12 months year over year since the effort began](#), the Department of Sanitation announced today. The total decrease across the covered period was 6.4%, and 14.3% in the City’s Rat Mitigation Zones.

The time period represented by these new numbers – a year-over-year comparison of rat sightings reported to 311, normalized for a 365-day year – overlaps with a tidal wave of change to the management of 44 million pounds of trash per day in New York City.

In October 2022, the Adams administration kicked off the Trash Revolution [by changing set-out times for both residential and commercial waste](#) from 4:00 PM — one of the earliest set-out times in the country — to 8:00 PM in April 2023, while also allowing earlier set-out if the material is in a container. This incentivization of containerization was paired with major changes to DSNY operations, picking up well over a quarter of all trash at 12:00 AM rather than 6:00 AM, particularly in high density parts of the city, and ending a practice by which up to one fifth of trash had been purposefully left out for a full day.

Later that month, DSNY published its “[Future of Trash](#)” report, the first meaningful attempt to study containerization models in New York City, and the playbook to get it done.

Last August, containerization requirements went into effect [for all food-related businesses in New York City](#). These businesses — restaurants, delis, bodegas, bars, grocery stores, caterers, etc. — produce an outsized amount of the type of trash that attracts rats.

That same month, installation of the initial 10-block, 14-school Manhattan Community Board 9 pilot containers began.

Last September, [commercial containerization requirements extended to chain businesses](#) of any type with five or more locations in New York City. These chain businesses tend to produce a large total volume of trash.

Starting March 1, 2024, container requirements went into effect for [all businesses — of every type — in New York City](#) to get their trash off the streets and into a secure bin.

Later this fall, when container requirements go into effect for low-density residential buildings — those with one to nine units — approximately 70 percent of all trash in the city will be containerized.

In the spring of 2025, installation of stationary on-street containers will begin in Manhattan Community Board 9 for the first full-district containerization pilot, serviced by new automated side-loading trucks.

A graphic showing the success of these efforts can be seen [here](#).

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