

NO FOOD NO RATS!



No food leftovers
in streets, parks and
courtyards!



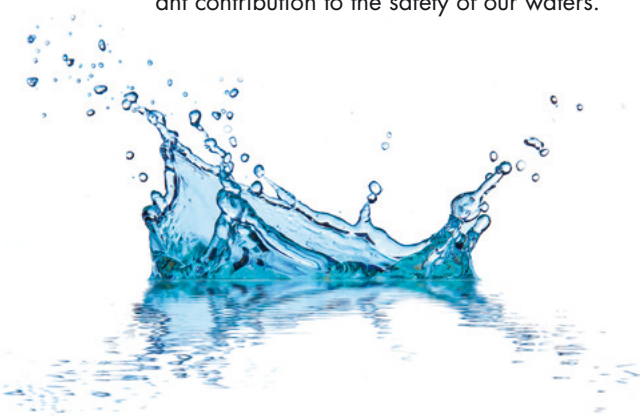
No food leftovers
other than in waste
bins!



No food leftovers
in drains and WCs!



We reliably provide Giessen's citizens 4.5 million cubic litres of high-quality drinking water each year. We collect your wastewater with our 500 km canal network, and clean it in one of the largest wastewater treatment plants in Hesse – designed for 60,000 households – together with the wastewater from the other communities in the region. With the application of modern and high-efficiency facilities, we are making an important contribution to the safety of our waters.



Additional information available under:
Central Hesse Water Utility – MWB
Alicenstrasse 33
35390 Giessen
info@nofoodnorats.de

www.NoFoodNoRats.de

NO FOOD NO RATS!



No food waste for rats!

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So what is the problem anyway?

Giessen's rats have long been happy about the continuously-increasing amount of food leftovers, which they find in the sewage systems as well as outside – on streets, in parks and residential yards, and around waste bins.

As a result of the increase in the availability of these food sources, the rat population has been continuously increasing. With our campaign "No food, no rats," we would like to provide information on what each person can do to help prevent the further spread of rats.

Where they live, things are good...

They are nocturnal, and are excellent swimmers, divers, and climbers. They are at home in rubbish tips, in sewers, as well as in buildings – we're talking about rodents which most people consider repellent: rats. These animals, which mostly live in holes in the ground, get through the sewer network from place to place with no problems. This network in Giessen is about 500 km long. As a result of the constant temperature and the substantial amount of food made available by way of drains and WCs, they find appropriate living conditions in the sewer systems year round. However, whoever believes that rats are only at home in the sewers is mistaken.

Thoughtlessly discarded food leftovers, open rubbish bins or bags, as well as feeding stations for ducks and pigeons turn the Giessen area into a paradise for rats, in which they can develop very well.

Plenty of food? More rats!

Female rats produce around 40 offspring throughout the entire year. In Germany, there are approximately four wild rats for each citizen. Rats are potential carriers of various infectious diseases, and put both people and household pets at risk. Reliable study results regarding which rodents carry which diseases are, however, not available.

Controlling the spread of rats

In Giessen, efforts to control the spread of rats are carried out by the specialists of the MWB, who place lures with poisonous substances in secured bait boxes in selected locations. When however, food sources provided by people are tempting and enticing, rats have no reason to take and eat this bait. This goes as well for bait that is placed aboveground by specially authorized pest controllers. Since the bait lures with dangerous substances (poison) are applied in the open environment, the control of rats is, due to legal regulations, quite complex and, through fees paid by taxpayers, very expensive.

What can you do?

1. No food leftovers in drains and WCs!
2. Do not leave rubbish bags next to rubbish bins!
3. Do not discard open food leftovers in household waste!
4. No food leftovers in composters!
5. Store yellow bags in secure places until they can be picked up!
6. Only put clean food packaging into yellow bags!
7. Do not feed wild animals, such as pigeons, ducks, and swans! Rats also benefit from this feed.
8. Do not leave rubbish in green areas!
9. Do not thoughtlessly leave food leftovers – such as from grilling or from "food to go" – in streets, parks and courtyards!
10. Do not provide shelter or nesting opportunities in shrubbery, hedges and bushes.
11. Avoid allowing yards and gardens to become overgrown!
12. Rats can also get into houses through shafts, draina-

ge pipes and sewage drains – any such openings should be blocked!

13. Repair any damaged sewage pipes and other service connections!
14. Install non-return backflow valves in sewer systems!

Rat infestation? Act now!

When you discover that your property has become infested with rats, we suggest that you contract a professional company to deal with the situation. In the case of rat infestation on public property, please contact the Giessen city public order office under:

Ordnungsamt der Stadt Giessen:

telephone: 0641 306-1905 ext. 1904;

or email: ordnungsamt@giessen.de

Please help!

The city administration of Giessen and the Central Hesse Water Utility request that all citizens discard food waste consciously and responsibly. By doing this, the rat population in Giessen can be prevented from increasing further.

Rats that do not find food and shelter breed more slowly.