

The Health District adopted BKCBH Ordinance 1999-14, Rodent Regulations to prevent the spread of infectious and contagious diseases by rats, mice, and other rodents. These regulations require property owners to take measures to prevent rodent infestations that could adversely impact public health.

RODENT CONTROL REGULATIONS

SECTION I. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this ordinance to prevent the spread of infectious and contagious diseases by rats, mice, and other rodents (hereinafter referred to as “rodents”).

SECTION II. REQUIREMENTS

A. General Requirements

All buildings, docks, store rooms, warehouses, grain elevators, slaughterhouses, and residences within the county (hereinafter referred to as “buildings”) and premises within the county shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition and rendered free from rodents. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep, store, or expose for sale any food products or other goods, wares, or merchandise; or to occupy or maintain any building or premises; or to reside in any residence without complying with the provisions of these regulations. It shall be the duty of the owner, lessee, operator, or occupant thereof (hereinafter referred to as the “owner or occupant”) to take such preventive and remedial rodent-proofing measures as shall be prescribed by the Health Officer of the Bremerton-Kitsap County Health District or his/her duly authorized representative (hereinafter referred to as the “Health Officer”).

B. Protection of Food

1. All food products or other goods, whether kept for sale or for any other purpose, shall be so protected as to prevent rodents from gaining access thereto or coming in contact therewith.
2. Food service establishments shall comply with the pest control provisions of WAC 246-215-140, as amended.

C. Basements and Walls

All basements and walls of all buildings within the county shall be so constructed or repaired by the use of screens, nettings, cement or other material or materials

approved by the Health Officer as to prevent rodents from gaining entrance to or harboring beneath the same.

D. Elimination of Harborage: Vegetation

When evidence is found of rodent activity, the Health Officer may order the cutting and removal of vegetation that provides rodent harborage. This requirement is in addition to any preventive and remedial rodent-proofing measures required in Section II.A. above. Vegetation includes, but is not limited to, grass, weeds, and any other vegetation providing harborage. Cutting and removal of vegetation shall comply with the Kitsap County Critical Areas Ordinance 217-1998, as amended, or any other applicable regulation.

E. Rodent Traps

All buildings and premises shall be provided by the owner or occupant thereof with such number of rodent traps of a pattern approved by the Health Officer, as may be ordered by him/her. Said traps shall be freshly baited at such intervals as may be ordered by the Health Officer and shall be inspected by the owner or occupant daily and any rodent or rodents caught therein removed therefrom.

F. Poisons

Poisons suitable for the extermination of rodents shall be placed at or in buildings and premises when the Health Officer shall determine that a need exists for the placing of such poisons. It shall be the duty of each owner or occupant of such building or premises to comply with all orders and directives of the Health Officer regarding the placing of poisons and the type to be used.

SECTION III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Inspection -- Right of Entry

1. Whenever necessary to make an inspection to enforce or determine compliance with the provisions of these regulations, or whenever the Health Officer has cause to believe that a violation of these regulations has been or is being committed, the Health Officer or his/her duly authorized inspector may enter any land, building, structure, or premises at reasonable times to inspect the same.

If entry is refused, the Health Officer shall have recourse to the remedies provided by law to secure entry, including but not limited to search warrants.

B. Violations -- Enforcement

1. The violation of any provision of these regulations shall constitute an infraction. Each such violation shall constitute a separate infraction for each and every day or

portion thereof, during which such violation is committed, continued, or not permitted. Except as provided in Section III.B.5. below, Bremerton-Kitsap County Board of Health Ordinance 1996-9, "Environmental Health Enforcement Ordinance," as hereafter amended, shall be used to enforce the provisions of these regulations.

2. Upon receiving a written notice and order from the Health Officer, the owner or occupant of any building or premises in violation of these regulations shall take immediate measures to rodent-proof the building or premises as required under these regulations. The owner or occupant shall complete the work according to the schedule specified in the notice and order, unless a written extension has been granted by the Health Officer. If the owner or occupant does not comply with the notice and order, then that person is in violation of these regulations.
3. Whenever the Health Officer issues a notice and order to the owner or occupant of a building or premises that there is evidence of rodent infestation of the building or premises, said owner or occupant shall also continuously maintain such measures in a satisfactory manner until the building or premises is declared by the Health Officer or licensed pest control operator to be free of rodent infestation.
4. The owner or occupant of any rodent-proofed building or premises is required to maintain the building or premises in a rodent-proof condition and to repair all breaks that may occur in the rodent-proofing without a specific order of the Health Officer.
5. The owner or occupant is responsible for the costs of all corrective actions needed to rodent-proof buildings and premises, whether done by the owner or occupant or the Health Officer. The Health Officer shall have the right to collect the amount expended for rodent-proofing through appropriate legal action.

SECTION IV. REPEALED

Bremerton-Kitsap County Board of Health Ordinance Number 1996-7, dated May 1, 1996, is hereby repealed. In addition, if any resolution, code, words, rules or regulation of the Bremerton-Kitsap County Health District is in conflict with this regulation, they are hereby repealed to the extent necessary to give these regulations full force and effect.

SECTION V. SEVERABILITY

If any section or provision of this ordinance shall be adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any section or provision not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION VI. EFFECTIVE DATE

The effective date of these regulations shall be November 3, 1999.

Article 2 (Helpful Links)

The National Pest Management Association <http://www.pestworld.org/>