

I thought I'd post here because I know this is a persistent problem in our neighborhood. We have an outdoor storage shed and it's been a 'home' for rats (or night squirrels as my wife prefers to call them) since we moved here in 2007. Our neighbor at the time mentioned he'd used an exterminator to try to get rid of them. The exterminator cautioned him that there's not much to do because Stanford Ave is pretty much a 'rat highway'. Even if you rid your home of them, they'll just go to the next house. Eventually, the problem will come back. Without complete annihilation (which I'm all for), we can't get rid of them.

I don't like poisons (don't want to deal w/ the carcasses showing up odd places) and I've tried electronic traps with success. But you end up having to deal w/ the mess.

For the past few months, I've tried peppermint oil w/ great success, though I was skeptical at first. I put it on cotton balls and leave them in the shed. Voila, no droppings for months. I do have to re-apply about once a month but that's worth it. Plus you end up w/ a space that smells pretty decent. I've read that you can also plant peppermint around the perimeter of your home, but because it's a weed, you have to be diligent about pruning it back.