

There are 2 main types of rats in the Pacific Northwest – the Norway Rat (wharf rat or dump rat) and the Roof Rat (tree rat or ship rat). Here are some differences between them:

Norway Rat/Roof Rat Differences



Roof rat is more likely to be dark brown or almost black

Norway rat is grey to brown, but usually a lighter color than roof rat

Both rats are found in abundance in the Pacific Northwest.

Overall Body:	Norway rat is larger and robust Roof rat is smaller, sleek and graceful
Nose:	Norway rat has a blunt nose Roof rat's nose is more pointed
Ears:	Norway rat has small ears Roof rat has large ears
Tail:	Norway rat's tail is shorter than body Roof rat's tail is longer than body
Habitat:	The Norway rat is a ground-dwelling rodent The roof rat prefers elevated areas and rooftops