

# Under the Hood, a Cozy Rat Resort

## *The Tails of the Cities*

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*They like to go into the engine's compartment to stay warm and they build a nest there. They hang*

*out, and during the night they must get bored, and they eat the wires.” said Gus Kerkoulas, the owner of Z P Auto on Great Jones Street in Greenwich Village.*

*“When I looked under the hood, there was a nest up in the engine constructed of plastic bags and twigs, as well as rat droppings around, on top of the engine and near the battery.” said Kevin Centanni after his BMW parked in a private spot next to his house in Williamsburg would not start.*

*“They do need to chew constantly to wear down their incisors,” said Paul D. Curtis, an associate professor at Cornell University who specializes in wildlife management, “and there's something about*

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*the texture of the plastic that they really like.*

### **The movers:**

Evolution works in mysterious ways. While it exterminates an entire species of giant in your face predators it sustains those which can best be described as silent assassins! Spencer Johnson may have glorified rodents in the revolutionary read, ‘Who moved my cheese?’ as the ones who respond to change without resistance and emerge unscathed but for many the only change they might wish to see is the very landscape on which these

rodents move about. This antipathy towards the rodent species is quite understandable after all they have always been a bit of a nuisance and human patience was touted to be neither limitless nor compassionate!



## The menace:

Moving on from the introduction to ugly troublemakers to an even uglier sight of an internal combustion engine plied with rodent droppings, there is no denying the fact that the automobile industry is where this menace has reared its ugly head time and again and it is one of the biggest casualties of rodent rampage. Whether it is an average dusty Mustang or a rather high end Mercedes or even an always on the road



truck plied with garbage, class conscious is not what one can expect these rodents to be, for them it's just another car which helps keep their continuously growing incisors in shape!

Google yields innumerable links in less than a second to blogs, discussion forums and a host of sites dedicated to this very nuisance. Various instances of rodents having caused serious problems by chewing up hood liners, wires and fire wall insulation in cars and trucks have been reported.

Rodents can actually manage to chew through all the wires of the fuel injection wiring harness and not only sever them but actually chomp out two to three inch sections. There have been cases where they have even managed to destroy the wiring in the back wheel housing and the wiring harness for the fuel pump which is lodged between the rear bumper and the fuel tank. Access has never been an operational hazard for these creatures. Especially when access actually provides a sanctuary of warmth, a safe harbor from predators and an assemblage of teeth sharpeners to them! Rodents are known to build elaborate nests within the engine compartments and add to the hoard of various shiny and plastic components their own contribution of nuts,

*The losses resulting from these damages have run into thousands of dollars per vehicle which of course has to be borne by the owner as most insurance policies do not cover attacks on cars by stealthy pests.*

garbage and even worse pellet sized droppings!

## The Prospective Savior:

They say that 'An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure'. This couldn't have been more apt for Rodrepel<sup>®</sup>™ which unlike conventional rodenticides doesn't kill rodents but merely keeps them away. And what's more it is far more effective than any of the rodent aversives: traditional or otherwise which currently exist. It wouldn't be surprising that upon reading this vital

*Rodrepel<sup>®</sup>™ can be incorporated at polymer processing stage to give rodent resistant internal components. These can be even coated to fuel pipes and other such areas which are susceptible to rodent attacks but where extrusion is not possible as the product is extremely compatible with all grades of paints*

piece of information, disbelief is the emotion etched upon your face.

Moreover an ounce in this case is literally as low as 400-2000 ppm of Rodrepel<sup>®</sup>™ extruded with the polymer. Seats can be covered with plastic covers extruded with Rodrepel<sup>®</sup>™. This would quite literally turn your car into an impregnable fortress invulnerable to enemies (read rodents).

## The Verdict:

Rodents cause a lot of trouble to all vehicular owners and an effective solution to this problem is something manufacturers can capitalize upon and end users can benefit from. Innovative, non toxic and eco friendly options need to be encouraged to enter the realm of rats and tackle them on their own ground. It is a win-win opportunity for all : car manufacturers, end users and of course...rodents!!!

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