



RATS AND MICE INFORMATION SHEET



Rats and mice are destructive pests which, due to their lifestyle of living in insanitary places, are host to a wide range of diseases. Rats/Mice are very adaptable and will feed from discarded fast food and household refuse that has not been properly disposed of. It is not unusual for rats to visit gardens to feed on food left out for the birds and because of this ready supply of food they will often take up residence in the gardens, burrowing into soft soil, nesting under sheds and huts, in dry stone walls and under paving slabs.

Although rats/mice are usually more active at night time, daytime sightings are now on the increase.

Recognising Rat/Mice Infestations

Areas that are kept clean and well maintained will be less likely to attract rats/mice, but may not always eliminate them. Signs to look for include:

- Gnawed materials
- Footprints and 'runs'
- Dead carcasses
- Damage from feeding such as tooth marks on packaging and wires
- Holes
- Greasy smears along walls,
- Skirting boards and pipes from rodent fur
- Droppings and are usually grey or black in colour with a pointed end
- Flattened grass, plants and other vegetation where rats have created their own pathway
- Nests (sometimes found indoors, in lofts or under floorboards); and scratching and gnawing sounds from the loft, under the floorboards and in wall cavities.

Rats/mice are a major hazard to health. Rats spread many forms of disease, some of which can be fatal to man such as Weils' Disease. They may eat food which is intended for human consumption and they often damage much more which has to be discarded. Through their gnawing habit they also cause considerable structural damage to woodwork, water pipes, electric cables and so on.

Things to do:

- Look for the above signs listed under "Recognising Rat/Mice Infestations"
- Keep food items in closed lidded containers
- Immediately discard any contaminated food (i.e. gnawed bags or food with rodent droppings)
- Immediately conduct a thorough deep clean (particularly in food preparation areas) and disinfect where necessary.
- Ensure that no food is left out and all waste is placed in bags and then in lidded waste bins.
- Contact your GP if you have accidentally eaten any contaminated food/drinks and/or have flu-like symptoms as a direct result of this.

DO NOT INTERFERE OR TAMPER WITH THE BAIT PLACED