



How to rid your home of Rats & Mice



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 **Rentokil**
The experts in pest control

Introduction

There are many factors to blame for the considerable growth in the number of mice and rats such as a reduction in the collection of household waste, an increase in street litter, poor sewer maintenance, and warmer winters. In addition to this wild bird feeding can attract rats to the surplus food, while compost heaps provide harbourage to rodents.

A simple programme of good housekeeping practices within the house, outbuildings and garden is all it takes to prevent an infestation. This booklet will help you with advise to identify mice or rat infestation and a cost effective solution should a problem arise.

Did you know?

- A population of 100 mice will produce nearly 45lbs (20kg) of droppings per year.
- Mice can squeeze through holes the size of a pencil. Look for any potential areas they're gaining access and block them up.
- Mice continually urinate, resulting in contaminated foodstuffs.
- Mice can reproduce at only 6 weeks old and can produce up to 48 offspring in a year.
- There are approximately 60 million rats currently believed to be populating the UK - that's more than humans!
- The average length of a fully grown rat is nearly half a metre from the head to the tip of its tail.
- Rats breed amazingly quickly, reaching sexual maturity at only 8 to 12 weeks. During one year they can produce up to 70 offspring.
- Rats are physically very strong and have been known to swim a mile in open sea.

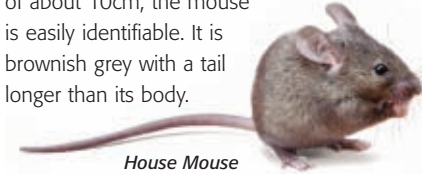


What to look for

Use this guide to identify your furry invader before choosing the best control.

The House Mouse

Appearance: At a body length of about 10cm, the mouse is easily identifiable. It is brownish grey with a tail longer than its body.



House Mouse

Mice characteristics: Nests mainly within stored materials indoors, the mouse can squeeze under a gap of only 6mm due to its flexible body. It is also an excellent climber and is therefore prevalent in attics. Poor sighted but with acute hearing it has an excellent sense of smell and taste.

Sign of infestation: Look out for rod shaped droppings of around 3-6mm long. Mice nibble at a multitude of household objects but are particularly keen on cereals.

Health risks: Mice continually urinate and can carry diseases such as Salmonella and Leptospirosis.

The Field Mouse

The Field Mouse can be identified by its larger size, paler belly and bulging eyes. This rodent climbs and jumps walls and lives in a wide range of habitats including fields, gardens, hedgerows, barns and sometimes houses. Its diet consists mainly of seeds, plants, roots and some insects.

The Rat

Appearance: There are two types of rat to be aware of - the Brown Rat and the Black Rat. The Black Rat is slightly smaller than the Brown Rat and can be easily identified by its tail, which is longer than its body. The Brown Rat is the most common rat in the UK and is commonly about 25cm in body length, with the tail a further 25cm.

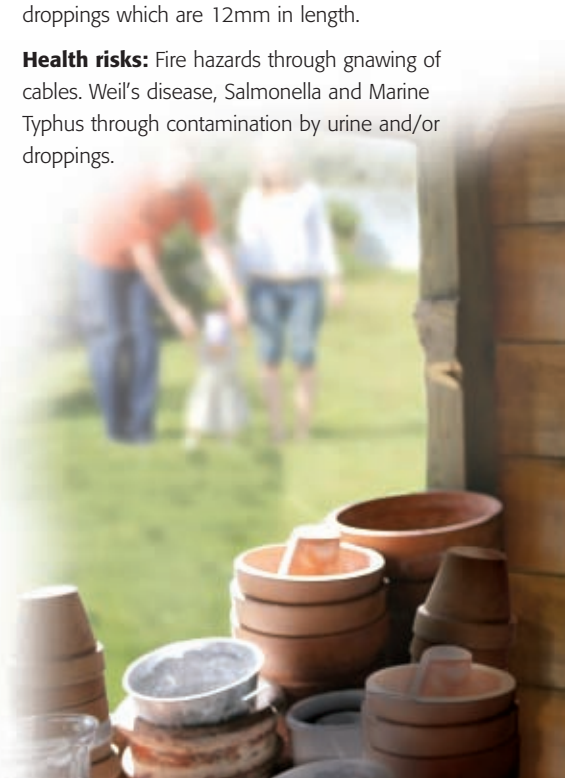
Rat characteristics: Rats have poor eyesight but an excellent sense of smell. The Brown Rat is a burrowing rodent that prefers to live outdoors. It can climb and is an excellent swimmer. The Black Rat lives mainly in trees, walls and attics.

Sign of infestation: Look out for teeth marks in electric and telephone cables, furniture, packaging and food stuffs such as nuts, grains and vegetables. The Brown Rat produces capsule shaped droppings around 20mm in length and the Black Rat produces banana shaped droppings which are 12mm in length.

Health risks: Fire hazards through gnawing of cables. Weil's disease, Salmonella and Marine Typhus through contamination by urine and/or droppings.



Brown Rat



Where are they?



A Footprints

Difficult to spot but a useful clue to the problem - try applying a light dusting of flour to affected areas to identify the rodent - rats will obviously leave bigger prints than mice.

B Droppings

Found around the main feeding areas of all invading rodents. See the previous page for details on how to identify the culprit.

C Gnawing damage

Electric cables, cupboard doors, food and packaging - rodent damage can be easily identified through the prevalence of teeth marks.

D Smear Marks

Rodents use defined, regular routes to move around houses. With bad eyesight, they rely on sensitive hairs to 'feel their way' and this continual contact with surfaces causes grease to rub off their fur leaving behind tell-tale 'smear marks'. Most often found along skirting boards or at the entrance of holes. Mice also urinate at smear mark points, causing a characteristic musty smell.

E Holes

Rodents will make the most of existing gaps to gain access or a quick exit - cupboard doors are particularly at risk and gaps behind skirting boards are also popular routes.

F Nesting Sites

Found inside the home and in the garden - mice often nest inside in available materials such as foam or paper, while rats commonly burrow beneath the ground in the garden, in compost heaps, under patios, pathways and buildings.

G Rat runs in undergrowth

Tell-tale tunnels through bushes in the garden are a sign of rats around the home. Although they may not have gained access to your house, damage and infection can still occur as a result of outdoor infestation.

H Noises

Squeaking, scratching and rustling - often originating from the attic - can be a sign of infestation. Not to be confused with birds, bats or squirrels.

I Bird Table

Overfeeding of garden birds provides an easy food source for rats. Make sure surplus food is not left lying around.

J Refuse and Bins

Rats can easily get into unsecured bins and bin bags. Make sure all rubbish is placed in a secured bin with the top fastened.





Which products should be used?

If rodents are infesting your home, it's crucial to take effective action immediately to protect against damage and the spread of disease. Once you've identified the intruder, you can then decide on the best form of control. There are three to choose from - bait, fatal traps and non-lethal methods.

Baits

Mouse and Rat Baits

Rodents are curious about new food sources which makes bait so effective. It can be positioned in a number of locations and once digested, rats and mice will typically return to their nests before the effect is fatal. Rentokil baits contain Bitrex - a bitter tasting ingredient which makes it unpalatable to humans - to avoid accidental consumption.

PRODUCT	FEATURES AND BENEFITS
Rodine Mouse & Rat Killer 	A special bait to control rats and mice in the home and garden. This product can be used in damp conditions. Ideal indoor locations include under cupboards, behind furniture or in loft space. Outdoors in lengths of pipe or beneath tiles leant against a wall or where rodents are seen running or feeding. Available in 50g, 150g, 300g and 1.25kg sizes, complete with bait trays. <i>Contains Bromadiolone.</i>
Fast Action Mouse Killer & Advanced Mouse Killer Box 	These are ready-to-use sealed boxes for indoor use, containing highly palatable mouse bait to kill up to 50 mice per box within 24 hours. Use as soon as an infestation occurs. Ideal locations are against walls, under cupboards or behind furniture. Available in single or twin pack. Safer to use amongst children and pets. <i>Contains Alphachloralose.</i>
Rat Killer Box 	A ready-to-use sealed box with 480g of highly palatable and effective rat bait for the control of rats indoors and outdoors. The tamper resistant, see through box is ideal where children and pets are present and contains sufficient bait to kill up to 10 rats. Use as soon as an infestation occurs. <i>Contains Bromadiolone.</i>
Rat Killer Bait 	A special bait, which may be used to control rats indoors and outdoors. Bait with at least 50g of bait. Ideal indoor locations include under cupboards, behind furniture or in loft space. Outdoors in lengths of pipe or beneath tiles leant against a wall or where rodents are seen running or feeding. This product can be used in damp conditions. Available in 400g, 1kg and 5kg sizes. <i>Contains Bromadiolone.</i>

Always read the label and product information before use. Use pesticides safely.

Traps and non-lethal methods

Conventional Traps





Available in a range of sizes to suit the rodent they can be positioned discreetly around infested areas.

Live Capture Traps

These traps capture the rodent live and then allow you to release it in a remote location - make sure you take it far enough away.

Ultrasonic Repellers

Uncomfortable for rodents but cannot be heard by humans. These may help deter rodents from entering a home in the first place. For existing infestations, these should be used in conjunction with conventional baits and traps.

PRODUCT	FEATURES AND BENEFITS
Advanced Mouse & Rat Traps 	These traps are a long lasting alternative to baits, easy to set and very effective. Use a suitable bait, such as peanut butter, chocolate spread or tuna. Place trap on a flat surface in a problem area, preferably near a wall. Easy to release rodent after capture. To dispose of rodent always use gloves and all waste should be double bagged using bin liners or similar before disposal in a bin with a secure lid.
Quick Set Mouse Trap 	A modern mouse trap - one click to bait and set the trap, one click for disposal. Press trap to open and apply bait; suggested baits include peanut butter or chocolate spread. Place trap on a flat surface along a wall where mice run. To discard mouse, simply squeeze trap and release - no need to touch the mouse. To dispose of the mouse always wear gloves and the mouse should be double bagged using bin liners or similar in a bin with a secure lid. Twin pack.
Wooden Mouse Traps 	Wooden mouse traps are proven cost effective products for the control of mice. Easy to use and set. Place trap on a flat surface along a wall where mice run. To dispose of the mouse always wear gloves and the mouse should be double bagged using bin liners or similar in a bin with a secure lid. Twin pack.
Live Capture Mouse Trap 	These traps are ideal for catching and releasing mice unharmed. It is designed to be re-usable. Easy to use - no mess, no fuss, no spring action, no poisons. Simply apply a little bait to the rear of the trap back and set on a flat surface along a wall where mice run. Ideal where children or pets are present. Make sure you release the mouse in a remote location far enough away.