

House Mice

How to control them



Why control them?

House mice can cause a great deal of damage by eating, gnawing and contaminating foods.

They urinate constantly and carry diseases such as salmonella.

House mice reproduce very quickly. Two mice can produce 120 offspring in one year. Each offspring is then able to reproduce within 8-12 weeks.

They damage and destroy property and can even cause fires by gnawing electrical cables.

They can get through a hole the diameter of a pencil.

Each mouse can produce around 80 droppings each day. Droppings are similar in size to a grain of rice and are often the first signs people see of an infestation.



Prevention

Good hygiene is essential for preventing house mouse infestations. Food scraps, rubbish etc. provide the ideal environment for mice to live and breed and should be removed.

Always clear up any spilt food immediately and keep foods, including pet foods, in sealable plastic containers.

Proofing will also help prevent infestations. Holes surrounding pipes etc. should be sealed. Mice are good climbers and can jump more than 24cm so remember to pay attention to holes above ground level.

Store all food products at least 24cm off the ground to make access harder, but easier to see signs of an infestation.

Air bricks and ventilators should be covered with a fine wire mesh with holes of not more than 6mm diameter. (NB do not seal air bricks).

Methods of control

Trapping

Can be effective in controlling small infestations.

For best results several traps should be used and placed at right angles to the wall and other areas where mice are known to be active.

Bait the trap with a small piece of chocolate, cereal or sugar (be prepared to change the bait if one doesn't work).

Traps should be checked every day. Live mice should be humanely killed and disposed of in a dustbin.

Mouse poisons

There are several mouse poisons available, which, if used correctly, can give excellent results (look for poisons containing active ingredients such as difenacoum).

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and ensure that children and pets are kept well away from the poison bait at all times.

Place the bait in dry places where mice are active as indicated by droppings and damage.

Use a number of baiting points spread throughout the infested area and replace any that have been eaten.

Continue to use the poison until no more is eaten and remove it immediately afterwards.

Remember poison bait is perfectly safe if used correctly. Always read the label before use.

Poison baits are available from supermarkets, hardware shops and chemists.

Further advice

The council's pest control section provides a treatment service for a variety of pests. For details of our charges and to make the necessary arrangements please telephone (01482) 300300.

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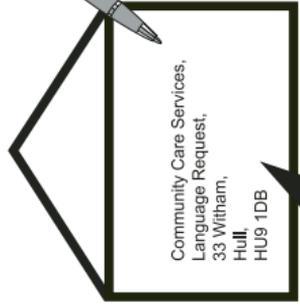
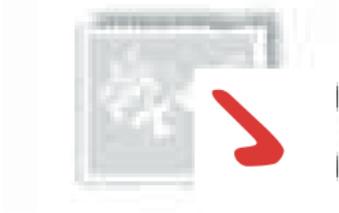
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