

Mice Advice Leaflet – Rodent Control

Mice are a worldwide pest, and research has shown that when in close proximity to humans they can transmit diseases and cause structural damage to properties and services such as electricity supplies. This advice sheet aims to provide you with information on the following:

1. A description of what a mouse may look like.
2. Problems linked to mice.
3. What mice eat.
4. What signs to look out for.
5. What can be done to control/prevent mice.

1. Description

The House Mouse (*mus domesticus*) lives and breeds in houses, buildings and other structures such as garages, garden sheds, and outbuildings, which all offer them shelter and protection from the cold and wet weather, and adequate food and water sources. Look out for the following features:

- They have a brownish-grey appearance.
- They have good hearing, but poor eyesight.
- Their size (including the tail) can range from approximately 10 – 20cm / 4 – 8 inches.
- They normally live between 10 – 24 months.
- They are capable of producing between 5 – 10 litters per year, with about 4 – 8 young per litter.

2. Problems linked to mice

Mice have been known to spread the following diseases:

- Salmonella and Listeria – which lead to food poisoning and tummy bugs.
- Worms – this leads to poor health.
- Cryptosporidia and Toxoplasma – which cause diarrhoea.

3. What mice eat

Mice will eat almost anything, including candle wax and window putty. However, they prefer to eat cereal based foods, and show a particular liking for grass seed and canary seed.

4. What to look out for

Mice tend to live indoors, in places such as lofts, under floors, or in wall cavities. Look out for the following:

- Damage to packets of food, electrical cables, woodwork, and shredded paper/plastic which is often used for nesting.
- Footprints may be found in dust or flour.
- Droppings are approximately 6mm long and resemble small, slim pieces of brown rice. They are likely to be found in and around stored food products and food preparation areas. Because of this, it is important to regularly check kitchens and cupboards.
- Gnawed holes in skirting boards.

- Scratching noises in the wall cavities and across the ceiling.
- Smears along surfaces. Mice produce these smears by continually rubbing their greasy fur against surfaces.

5. What can be done to control/prevent mice

There are 2 main methods for killing mice: poisoning and trapping. Although willing to offer free advice on request, the Pest Control section does not provide a treatment service for mice. Residents of