

# Mice

## Pest control facts – Mice



- Mice can climb rough surfaces, jump and even swim if necessary.
- Mice eat just 3g of food a day, often taken in small amounts from different places.
- A female mouse is usually pregnant for 20-23 days, has five to six litters a year with up to around six young in a litter.
- Mice have been known to have litters every three to four weeks which can lead to an explosion in numbers.

## Where mice live

- Mice live in dark, quiet places such as:
  - under floorboards
  - behind wall panelling
  - in roof spaces

## Recognising a mouse problem



Mice tend to come out in late evening, so are rarely seen.

You may notice any of these signs of mouse activity:

- A musty smell – left from the urine.
- Droppings – mice produce about 80 droppings per day. These droppings are generally up to 6mm long and spindle shaped.
- Holes – gnawed in:
  - food wrapping
  - boxes
  - bags
- Smear Marks – due to grease from fur deposits, which are left on habitual mouse runs.

# To prevent mice in your home

The most effective control is to remove access to their sources of food and shelter.

You can achieve this by:

- Sealing holes larger than 2-3mm with sheet metal or concrete (wire mesh can be used if ventilation is required).
- Keeping food in tightly fitting containers, preferably in wall cupboards or fridges.
- Cleaning up food, spills and waste and keep rubbish in bins with tightly fitting lids.

## Treatment we provide

Our pest control officers will survey all of your property to confirm the nature and extent of your problem.

This depends upon how easily they can access void areas (under floorboards, lofts, kitchen kickboard etc.)

We will:

- try to identify potential sources of food and harbourage and give you advice
- try to identify where they are coming from and tell you how to proof these
- control will be achieved using an appropriate method, which may not involve poison.

Our officers are able to locate holes in the property that may be used by pests, but they do not carry out repairs.

Please make provisions to block these areas if you do not want the pest problem to return.

## After treatment

- It usually takes approximately 4 to 7 day for the initial treatment to work.
- If pest proofing recommend by the pest control officer is not done, then the problem will reappear.

You must ensure that:

- all food is packed in sealed containers
- all food spillage is cleaned up
- kitchens are kept as clean as possible

Any spilled food will attract mice.