

What measures can I take to prevent a mouse infestation?

Make sure that all human and pet food is kept in sealed pest proof containers.

Mice will find their way through very small gaps so make sure that any small gaps in any external walls are filled, particularly around waste water pipes and beneath doors.

If the above measures are not successful, pest control treatment is the best solution. This can be done by the home owner using rodent poisons and traps bought over the counter in hardware stores, however, this is not recommended unless it is undertaken by a competent person.

It is advised that a professional pest control contractor be employed as they will be able to identify any nests and locate where the mice are entering your property.

You may wish to contact a private pest control company either through your local directory or through Hampshire County Council's, Buy With Confidence Scheme at <http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk>. Alternatively, contact Hart District Council's Pest Control Contractor. See details overleaf.

Hart District Council's Pest Control Service

The Council's Pest Control Contractor offers a competitive service for the following pests:

- Rats and Mice
- Wasps
- Bedbugs
- Cockroaches
- Fleas



There is a charge for the treatment of these pests in both domestic and commercial premises. A discount may apply for domestic customer who can provide evidence that they receive qualifying benefits.

If you would like to make an appointment for our Pest Control Contractor to visit, please:

Book Online:

<http://www.dialapest.co.uk/council/council.php>

Phone: 03444 828325

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Environmental Health



MICE

Biology and Habitat

Mice can be found anywhere humans live. They are typically found in lofts and areas that are warm and undisturbed, usually in close proximity to an accessible food supply.

Description

An adult house mouse has a typical body length of 10cm, and a tail length of around 3/4 the total length of the body.

Life Cycle

The normal gestation period for a house mouse is between 18 and 21 days. Mice are born blind and hairless.

Sexual maturity is reached in 35 days and the female will on average have 8 litters per year, with each litter averaging between 5 to 8 pups. 24 hours after giving birth the female is ready to conceive again.

Reproduction rates can be in the region of up to 2000 offspring in one year for a pair of adults.

How to spot the signs of a mouse problem

Common indications that alerts people to a problem, is a mouse sighting during the day in the garden or noises in the loft or roof space.

There are, however, other signs that you should look out for such as:

- **Holes** appearing in skirting boards and chewed food packaging.
- A stale musty **smell** - usually present when an infestation is long standing.
- **Footprints** and tail swipes in dusty places.
- **Droppings** - the number, age and density gives an idea of population size and how frequently they are visited.

Mouse droppings can be smaller than a grain of rice. Usually they are between 3 and 7mm in length.

3mm = —

7mm = ———



Why is it important to control mice?

Mice can cause a large amount of damage to the home such as gnawing of soft furnishings, wood products, structures, clothes and electrical cables.

Mice can transmit diseases to humans and contaminate food material through their droppings or urine.

Mice are a public health risk and Environmental Health can enforce treatment if required under The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.