

PEST CONTROL ADVICE NOTE FOR RESIDENTS
PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

Property owners have a legal obligation under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 to keep premises rodent free.

Just because you see a rat in your garden does not always mean there is a problem. Rats can travel up to a mile looking for food; therefore, they may just be passing through.

If you continue to see rats more often (daily, twice a week) then this may indicate a bigger problem.

Below is some advice if you think there is an active infestation.

Signs of rat activity include:

- Seeing rats.
- Holes in the ground (about the size of a tennis ball), often near decking areas, sheds, in areas of vegetation or earth, near compost bins.
- Droppings, black or dark brown, approx. 15 – 20mm long, and pellet-shaped.
- Dark “smear” marks on surfaces regularly used by rats.
- “Runs” which appear as tracks on soft ground or grass, usually on the ground near to structures such as fences and walls etc.

It is unusual to see all the above signs, but the most common sign is the presence of visible rat holes.

What you should do about it:

- Contact a reputable pest control contractor to eradicate the rats.

These can be found at: <https://bpca.org.uk/find>

- Remove any possible food sources, such as bird feeders, pet food, fallen fruit, domestic waste etc.
- If possible, remove access to places where rats like to live such as under decking and sheds, in compost bins, dense vegetation and within waste.
- Check for gaps / holes in the outer walls of your property and fill any you find to prevent them getting inside. Take particular care to look around service pipes, air grates, doorways etc.
- If you find evidence of rats within your property, seek professional advice from the British Pest Controllers association website: [Pest advice for controlling Rats](#). A common way that rats get inside property is through defective drainage and if you suspect this to be a problem you may wish to contact a drainage contractor to check the condition of your drains.

