

Rats & Mice



Rats and mice can be found in homes, gardens, shed and garages and their numbers need to be minimised for the following reasons:

- They eat and contaminate all types of food.
- They damage and destroy property.
- They carry diseases that are hazardous to both humans and animals—diseases such as typhus, trichinosis, plague, jaundice (Weils disease) etc.

The signs of a rat or mouse infestation include droppings, seeing footprints in damp soil or dust, and burrows in the ground. There will also usually be signs of gnawing.

What Kind of Infestation do you have?



The picture above shows a 50p piece, the droppings on the left follow a visit from a mouse and on the right are as a result of a visit from a rat. Rat's droppings are the largest and they vary in shape from bluntly rounded ends to spindle shaped in appearance. Black rat droppings are generally smaller and more regular in form, the ends are usually pointed. Mouse droppings are very small and are sometimes confused with cockroach droppings.

When droppings are discovered it is important to determine their age as it will indicate when droppings are discovered it is important to determine their age as it will indicate whether the infestation is current. Fresh droppings are soft enough to be pressed out of shape and have a glistening moist appearance. The colour varies according to the kind of food eaten, but usually they are black or nearly black.

Within a few days, depending on climatic conditions, droppings become dry and hard. Later the surface will become dull, and over an extended period of time they assume a greyish, dusty appearance and may crumble easily.

What Service does the Council Provide?

South Gloucestershire Council make a charge for the treatment of Rats and Mice in domestic premises, with discounted rat treatments for those on one of the qualifying benefits (Income Support, Pension Credit (**guarantee credit**), income based Job Seekers Allowance) We also provide a full competitive contract service for commercial premises.

Treatment is usually in the form of poison baits, although occasionally cages, traps dusts or liquid baits may be used if the pest control officer thinks this would be more appropriate.

If you think you have a rodent problem the pest control officer will survey the premises and carry out the appropriate treatment.

The officer will inform you of where baits have been placed and keep you informed about how the treatment is progressing.

You will be advised on safety regarding the treatment and will be left an information sheet.

Before treatment takes place, a signature will be required from a person aged 18 or over and who is the owner/occupier of the premises.

Customers should note that occasionally the pest control officer might consider that treatment is more effectively carried out in an alternative location or may not be required at all.

During the treatment you may be offered advice about “hygiene” and/or proofing to prevent further infestations. You will be expected to act on any advice given, before further treatments will be carried out.

The officer will not undertake any building or other works, remove floorboards, tiles etc.

If items are required to be removed or lifted this is the customer’s responsibility.

Where deemed necessary by the Local Authority, formal notices under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act or the Public Health Acts may be served, to require occupiers to treat or take steps to eradicate vermin.

Customers should note that the Council reserves the right to refuse or terminate the treatment at any time.

Preventing Infestations

- Accumulations of waste materials and rubbish can attract rodents and makes a warm home. Ensure all waste (especially food waste) is disposed of promptly and appropriately.

- Avoid leaving large amounts of food out for the birds, especially if scattered on the ground. Do not leave food out over night. Where possible use hanging feeders. Excessive bird feeding is by far the largest single reason for attracting rats onto properties in South Gloucestershire.
- Where pet food is stored in outbuildings use lidded metal containers and clean up all spills immediately.
- Use fine mesh chicken wire (< 10mm) on animal cages and under compost bins to prevent rats gaining access.
- Clean up spills from under internal and external animal cages on a daily basis.
- Block any holes around air vents or piping
- Keep outer doors closed
- Fit balloon or cone guards around the top of drainpipes

For Pest Control treatment: 01454 868001

Free Internet access is available at all South Gloucestershire libraries

**South Gloucestershire Council
Environmental Protection
Department for Environment and Community Services
PO Box 299, Civic Centre, High Street,
Kingswood, Bristol
BS15 0DR**

Tel: 01454 868001

Email: Environmental.protection@southglos.gov.uk

Web: www.southglos.gov.uk/envpro