



Rats Advice Leaflet – Rodent Control

Rats are a worldwide pest, they are very adaptable and known to spread life threatening diseases as well as causing structural damage in the areas they infest. This advice sheet aims to provide you with information on the following:

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

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- Rat droppings, which are about 1-2cm or $\frac{3}{4}$ " long a

Good Hygiene Practice

Controlling and preventing rats can also depend on:

- Good building maintenance – such as filling in holes and/or proofing openings bigger than 2.5cm in diameter.
- Removing garden rubbish, debris, old furniture etc, which can provide harbourage that would attract rats.
- Maintaining a tidy garden.
- Removing food scraps from gardens or alleyways.
- Do not feed birds on the ground. Use specialist feeder tables.
- For food stored in sheds and garages, use sealed metal or plastic containers to prevent rodent access.
- Use brush strips where there is a gap under a door.
- Use black bins to store rubbish. Rats will chew through black bags. Bins are available from most DIY stores.

Use the Waste Management service to arrange for the removal of large collections of rubbish or bulky items. Telephone 0121 303 1112 or email refusecollection@birmingham.gov.uk for further information and to request this service.

REMEMBER: legally, it is the responsibility of the owner / occupier to control pests on their premises. If you do spot an infestation, please contact the pest control section who will offer advice on removing / preventing infestations and attend where necessary.