

BUILDINGS

It is recommended that :-

1. Waste food, empty food tins and other waste which might attract rats must be stored in bins with tight fitting lids.
2. Food for the birds should not be left in any place where rats can have access to it. Such food is often a greater attraction to rats than to birds.
3. Garden compost heaps should not contain anything likely to attract rats.
4. The surroundings of your dwelling house must be kept clean, the garden should be free of accumulations of rubbish, hedges should be neatly trimmed and overgrowth of weeds and grass controlled.

In order to prevent infestation of buildings, all outside walls should be rodent-proofed against the entry of rodents.

In this regard, attention is directed to:-

- (i) Openings made for waste pipes, soil pipes, washing machines.
- (ii) Openings made for electric and telephone cables, and central heating pipes.
- (iii) Openings made for underfloor ventilation.
- (iv) The gap between the bottom of an external door and the threshold.
- (v) Defective drains and manholes.

As a householder you are requested to do your part.



HSE
ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH

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RODENT
CONTROL FOR
HOUSEHOLDERS

GUIDE TO HOUSEHOLDERS AND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS

Under existing legislation the control of rodents is the responsibility of the occupier of the premises in which rodent infestation is evident.

The following guide will help you to rid your premises of rodents and prevent re-infestation.



**Danger
Poison**



POISON

RAT POISONS

Rodent control is most effectively undertaken by the use of anti-coagulant poisons (e.g. Warfarin) which are easily available through retail stores/ pharmacists etc.

When rats and mice eat anti-coagulants at low concentrations in the bait, symptoms of illness are slow to appear so the rodents don't associate them with their food. Feeding continues until a lethal dose has been absorbed. This may take several days..

BAITING TECHNIQUES

1. **Always read the manufacturer's instructions.**
2. Bait a good number of dry locations throughout infested areas, near burrow holes, runways or where they have been feeding or causing damage. A cupful or more of bait should be placed in each location.
3. Place bait in 18inch lengths of 4inch diameter drain piping in order to keep it dry and prevent interference by children, animals and birds.
4. Inspect bait points daily and top up where required; increase the amount where all has been consumed. Replace completely any bait which deteriorates.
5. Co-operation between owners of neighbouring properties is essential. Each owner must lay bait if treatment is to give complete clearance.
6. After control is achieved it is a good practice to maintain a few permanent points to prevent re-infestation.



HEALTH AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

1. Always read the manufacturer's instructions.
2. Avoid all contact by mouth.
3. Wash hands and exposed skin before and after handling.
4. Prevent access to bait by children and domestic animals.
5. Do not use where food or feed could become contaminated.
6. Remove all remnants of bait and bait containers and dispose of them safely.
7. Keep poison baits in original containers, tightly closed, in a safe place.

HYGIENE AND RODENT PROOFING

Rodents will come to stay in any area where there is :-

- (a) An adequate food supply for them,
- (b) Suitable conditions for them to live and breed.

Rodent Control treatment can be of little value if not followed up by efforts to eliminate the conditions which attract rats. Local residents' associations could help considerably by ensuring high standards in each area. Good hygiene will eliminate rats.