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A company with a passion for communities

# Rats



**Here to help... 0800 915 1600**

## Other

If you would like this document in another format or language, please tick as required and return to East North East Homes Leeds, Freeport

RRJX-YRTK-TACE, Leeds, LS7 3YY.

Your name:

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Telephone

## Formats



CD print



Large



Braille



Text

أود أن يكون هذا المستند باللغة العربية.

ARABIC

لطفاً اكتب لنا به زبان فارسی در اختیار من قرار دهید.

FARSI

ئەم وەرەقیەم بە کوردی دەریژێت

KURDISH

Chciał(a)bym otrzymać ten dokument w języku polskim.

POLISH

የዚህ ሰነድ ቅጽ ለግድግድ ለግድግድ ለግድግድ

TIGRINI

ئەم وەرەقیەم بە کوردی دەریژێت

URDU

Another language (write in the box)

For more information call us on 0800 915 1600.



# About Rats

- The sight of a rat generally provokes a strong reaction. We associate them with dirt and disease, and history has taught us not to tolerate them at close quarters
- Today while the 'Black Death' no longer stalks our city streets, the rat is still implicated in the transmission of disease to humans so there is no room for complacency
- Rats are commensal animals, they live in close association with other animals and humans. They are usually nocturnal
- They are not dependent on us, but our habits often favour them and they are quick to take advantage of circumstances or exploit opportunities we deliberately or inadvertently create
- From posing a threat to human health, rats can damage property and goods due to their inherent need to gnaw hard objects
- All in all it is in everyone's interest to keep their numbers to a minimum
- Pest control measures are effective, but cannot be relied upon entirely. There is a cost associated with the use of poisons and as with all pesticides, their use needs to be kept to a minimum
- There are a number of preventative steps that we can take without necessarily resorting to professional help or suffering loss through damage or incurring any unnecessary expense.
- Rats can gain access to a house in a number of ways, most of these can be prevented by good maintenance.
- Ensure all gaps (8mm or larger) in brickwork are permanently sealed. Gaps are not normally present but can result from improvements or disrepair, i.e. if pipes or cables have been inserted or removed.

## Preventing rats in your home

- Repair broken air vents/bricks.
- With older houses, ensure any gaps under external doors are effectively blocked using bristle strip type draught excluders.
- Rats in the loft may have gained access a number of ways such as external holes in the fabric of the building, wall climbing plants or direct from the sewerage system via broken / faulty pipes giving access to the wall cavity. You can check your manholes for telltale signs i.e. droppings, soil (from tunneling).

## Preventing rats in your garden

- Feed the birds not the rats! Take care when putting out bird food or scraps not to encourage unwanted visitors! Large amounts scattered about may well bring rats into your garden. The RSPB can advise on the best ways to feed garden birds. Phone 01273 775333.
- Home composting is an environmentally friendly way to recycle 'green' household waste. It is not recommended to recycle any cooked food scraps and leftovers by composting. Beware also, a badly constructed or poorly maintained heap will provide good harbourage for rats.
- Rats in sewers will tunnel out where there is a break in the pipe work. Holes in the ground around your manhole may indicate a problem, in which case repairs will be necessary.
- If you have an aviary or keep animals outdoors in an enclosure or hutch, you will need to take extra care to avoid rats as spilt animal feed, accumulated droppings and bedding material , which will attract them.
- Overgrown, untidy gardens, accumulated refuse, stockpiles of materials, or plain old junk can easily become infested

especially if there is a local food source. A tidy garden will avoid many problems including rats.

- Holes in flowerbeds and under sheds are also favoured locations

## **Preventing rats on your land or property**

- Ensure any land or property that you are responsible for does not become infested through misuse or neglect. Vacant sites need to be protected against fly tipping and undergrowth should not become overgrowth! Old sewer connections should also be properly sealed over and drains periodically checked that they remain in good repair.
- Buildings need to be protected against vermin. Even small holes or gaps around pipes through walls provide entry opportunities. Also gaps under doors, broken airbricks and windows provide easy access. Rats can climb so check up as well as down.
- Be careful with household waste. Use a rigid bin rather than plastic bin bags and avoid storing the bin adjacent to a wall as rats may climb up between.

## **Preventing rats in public places**

- Avoid littering, especially takeaway foods. Not only is this unsightly and potentially harmful, it also encourages rats. Unwanted food scraps, empty containers and wrapping should be disposed of in litter bins or else taken home for disposal.
- Feeding birds in public open spaces is not recommended as, apart from the nuisance created by pigeon droppings, rats are likely to be encouraged as well.

- Unwanted household furniture, carpets, mattresses and appliances should be correctly disposed of at Civic Amenity Sites or similar to avoid providing yet more warm / dry harbourages for rats.

## Use of poisons (rodenticides)

Certain rodenticides are available over the counter for those wishing to carry out treatment themselves. However, extreme caution is necessary when using poisons in the open or indoors, ensure you refer to the instructions and statutory box on the product **BEFORE** proceeding to use it. For this reason, we **DO NOT** recommend self-application unless you are confident you know how to do so properly, without exposing non-target animals to the risk of accidental poisoning. Apart from the distress caused, it is illegal and could result in prosecution.

Otherwise please contact this department on the number given below or refer to a trade directory where there are many Private Firms offering this service at varying charges.

## For further advice

If you have any questions about the information in this leaflet or would like a professional treatment, please contact Pest Control on:

**0113 222 4406** or email: **pests@leeds.gov.uk**

\*The information in this leaflet has been taken from Leeds City Council's Pest Control leaflets.



# Are we getting it right?

We're always trying to improve the quality of our information.

You can help us by filling in this form and:

- ✓ hand it in at any East North East Homes Leeds Housing Office
- ✓ send it to us at East North East Homes Leeds Freepost RRJX-YRTK-TACE, Leeds LS7 3YY

Thank you for your help

**What do you think about this booklet overall?**

*Please tick whichever applies.*

Good  Average  Poor

**What part(s) of it should we improve?**

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**Did you understand the information?**

Yes  No

If not, please say what you didn't understand

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**Do you think the layout is**

Good  Average  Poor

**How could we improve it?**

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Your name

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**Rats**

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