

Mice

Knowsley Council Pest Control Service

Mice

There are two commonly found species of mice, house mice and field mice. Mice infestations can develop very quickly, with a female mouse producing over 60 young a year. Mice eat and excrete on food, contaminating it for humans. They urinate on food surfaces, spreading germs which can cause food poisoning, such as salmonella. Mice will eat most types of food found in kitchens but prefer cereals and grains.

Signs to look out for around your home

House mice are light brown to grey and between 60 and 90mm long. During the winter months mice live in nests inside buildings, areas such as lofts or under floor boards.

Field mice are sandy / orange brown and between 80 and 100mm long. Field mice rarely enter inhabited buildings, however during the winter months field mice can nest in outhouses, lofts or under floor boards.

Signs of mice include:

- Droppings - these are black, look like grains of rice 3 - 6mm long
- Gnaw damage to food packaging
- A distinctive odour in areas where mice live in large numbers
- Paper or cloth balled up to make a nest
- Scratching noises in cavities such as lofts or under floorboards
- Black greasy marks on surfaces

How to prevent mice

There are many simple things you can do to prevent mice:

- Repair or fill gaps beneath external doors, around air vents or external pipes - mice can squeeze through openings as small as 0.6mm. These can be blocked with wire wool or mesh and then filled with cement. **DO NOT BLOCK AIR VENTS**
- Trim back wall climbing plants as these can hide access holes or enable mice to climb into your house. Mice are excellent climbers
- Clear up food spillages and store food in sealed containers
- Move household refuse outside regularly, ensuring it is stored in wheellie bins which are put out for collection
- Avoid the build up of rubbish or large items around your home as mice can use these to live in
- Clear overgrown, untidy gardens



Treating and controlling mice

Traps: Break back traps are available from supermarkets, garden centres and DIY stores. These should be placed in cupboards, corners and next to walls used as travel routes. Traps can be baited with food such as peanut butter, bacon fat, caramel and marzipan. Use several traps and check them daily. If using traps does not solve the problem you may need professional help.

Please note - releasing caught mice may result in them returning to your property. Dead mice can be buried or disposed of in the domestic refuse.

Poisons (rodenticides) can be bought from supermarkets and most garden centres. Poison baits can be laid in cupboards, floor and roof voids.

These should be checked every few days and replenished when required until no further poison is taken and mice are no longer active. If poison continues to be taken for more than three weeks or not taken at all you may need professional help.

IMPORTANT

Please take care when setting up and handling traps and store poison in a safe place away from children and pets. Always refer to product or handling instructions before use.

Further help and guidance

Knowsley Council Pest Control Service offers competitive rates for the treatment of mice in domestic properties. Please contact us for commercial rates.

If you live in a rented property, please contact your landlord to arrange treatment. To report drainage defects contact United Utilities on 0345 672 3723.

For further information, or to book a treatment, ring **0151 443 2400** or visit www.knowsley.gov.uk/residents/bins-waste-and-environment/book-pest-control-appointment

