

Mice (*Mus domesticus*)

Description

The house mouse is the most common species of mouse in London. The adult mouse has brown to grey fur on its back and grey to white underneath; it has large ears in relation to its body and small feet. Its tail is thin and the same length as its body.



Where and how do they live?

Mice mainly visit houses and nest under floors and within wall cavities. They might also live outdoors for all or part of the year. Mice are more active at night. They are good climbers and can squeeze through gaps as small as 6mm which means they can easily enter our homes.

Why are they a problem?

Mice are a health hazard. They spread diseases, eat food intended for humans and ruin it with their urine, droppings and fur. Mice can also cause damage to buildings by gnawing through woodwork, wires, pipes and household items.

What can I do to prevent mice in my home?

The smallest scraps of food or liquid are attractive to hungry mice. To avoid attracting mice into your home:

- Wash kitchen surfaces before and after preparing food and clean up any left-over mess
- Sweep and mop all food and liquids from the floor regularly
- Keep food stored in air tight containers
- Empty bins regularly

How can I get rid of mice?

You can try to get rid of mice yourself. Most garden centres, hardware shops and large chemists will stock a range of poisons and mouse traps. It is very important to follow the instructions carefully. Alternatively you can get a professional pest control company to carry out the treatment for you.

How we can help

Call pest control on 0800 952 4444. If you have tried to get rid of mice in your house but without any success, we can visit and carry out a survey to advise on the best control measures. This could mean that we have to visit and treat a number of nearby homes at the same time, (block treatment). If poison baits are used, they should be left undisturbed. We will return to check these, and refill them if necessary. They will be removed when you no longer have a problem.

If you have a problem with mice and there is already a private pest control contractor treating our home or block, please do not contact us.

Contact

If you are a council tenant and you are having a problem with mice please contact your area housing office or call 0800 952 4444.

Diseases

Salmonella
Rat bite fever