

Swindon Borough Council  
**Pest Control Service**  
**Fact Sheet**

**MICE**



**Mice.**

Description, life cycle, breeding potential, habitat needs, habits, effects, potential problems etc

Mice are small rodents measuring approximately 8cm long. It has large ears and small eyes. House Mice are light brown to dark grey in colour and weigh between 10 and 25 grams. Mice carry diseases such as Salmonella. They urinate and defecate indiscriminately producing up to 80 tiny droppings per day, contaminating food and surfaces.

Mice can cause considerable damage to property through their constant gnawing. This can affect cables, plastic, paper, pipe work, lagging, putty and many other household materials.

They must gnaw continually in order to wear down their rapidly growing incisor teeth. They are good climbers, and they can swim if necessary, although they tend to avoid water. They have poor eyesight, and are colour blind but they have an excellent sense of taste and acute hearing.

They are sexually mature at 6 weeks old and can produce up to 8 litters per year, with an average litter size of 4–8 young. They have a life span of between 9–12 months.

**Preventing Mice Infestations.**

- 1 Mice can squeeze through holes the size of a biro, typically living and breeding under floors, in cavity walls, ceiling voids and behind skirting boards where they are able to construct small nests.
- 2 They are very agile and excellent climbers. Although predominantly nocturnal, mice can be seen during the day. They are inquisitive creatures and will feed from numerous sources, often nibbling small amounts of a wide variety of foods.
- 2 Buildings can be proofed against mice by blocking any openings through which they may enter. They can squeeze through any hole larger than 6mm so check your property for damage and repair with suitable materials.
- 3 All air vents that may be used by mice should be covered with 3mm gauge perforated zinc.
- 1 Gaps above 3mm around window or door thresholds should be filled. Any gaps around pipe work serving meters or plumbed in washing machines and any pipes that travel through the cavity wall should be filled.

- 1 Follow basic food hygiene guidelines. Don't leave stale or mouldy food lying around and keep food off the floor, preferably in sealed containers.
- 2 Use your wheelie bin
- 3 Take care that all waste foods are put into your wheeled bin and not left lying around in bags or sacks. Make sure that your dustbin lid fits properly!
- 4 Control rubbish
- 2 Avoid the accumulation of rubbish, piles of wood and other garden waste. Clear areas of overgrown garden. These can all provide excellent nesting places!
  - Clear away pet food and ensure good housekeeping when keeping animals, storing their foodstuffs in sealed bins. Do not sprinkle waste food on the garden for birds. Try and use specialized bird feeders that cause minimal spillage.
- 1 Maintain your compost. If you have a compost bin only dispose of garden and vegetable matter. DO NOT dispose of meat or cereal products on compost heaps. Make sure that the compost bin is resting on a hard standing to stop mice burrowing up into it. A badly constructed or poorly maintained heap will provide an attractive home for mice and rats.

## **Treating a Mice Infestation.**

Mice can be dealt with in a number of different ways:

- 1 You can use traditional mousetraps.
- 2 Poison baits can be bought across the counter but always follow the manufacturers instructions.
- 3 Swindon Borough Council offers a subsidised service for rats and mice in domestic premises.
- 2 You can alternatively call a private professional pest control operator which can be found in the yellow pages.

## **What Swindon Borough Council Pest Control can do to Treat Mice.**

What Swindon Borough Council Pest Control WILL do

- 1 Assess the problem that you have with rats or mice.
- 2 Lay poison bait in appropriate areas.
- 3 Leave advisory information detailing the poison used.
- 4 Revisit as necessary to check that the poison bait has been taken and that the rat/mouse problem is reducing.
- 5 Offer advice on structural work that may be necessary to help you solve the problem (e.g. drainage work).

## **What Swindon Borough Council Pest Control will NOT do**

- 1 Carry out any structural work to keep rats or mice out of houses/buildings gardens (including lifting floorboards or heavy manhole covers).
- 2 Lay poison in inappropriate or unsafe areas. This is usually at the discretion of the operative but includes open spaces/alleys or other areas where children or pets may have unsupervised access to poison bait.
- 3 Routinely remove dead rats or mice. (To dispose of these, double-bag them and put them in to your wheelie bin.)

## **Swindon Borough Council Pest Control Charges**

- 2 Free with Swindon Card (a Y or Z)
- 3 £28 if prepaying by credit/debit card
- 4 £30 paying by cash or cheque on the day.

This charge covers the initial call out and up to 2 subsequent visits if required.

**To arrange for a visit by Pest Control**

Call (01793) 466071