



In need of some assistance with a mouse infestation?

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London Network for Pest Solutions Ltd provides information leaflets on the following pests:

Rats • Mice • Cockroaches • Squirrels • Bed Bugs • Wasps • Flies • Fleas • Moths • Ants • Foxes • Birds

MICE: Pest Advice

What does a mouse look like?

As one of the smaller members of the rodent family, mice can grow to up to a whopping 20g in weight and 10cm in length, with another 10cm for the tail. In the UK, the most common species is the house mouse; a slender body with light grey or brown fur, with a lighter shade on the underside, proportionally larger ears and a longer tail. As with all rodents, mice have a pair of incisor teeth in the upper jaw and tiny claws with a strong grip.

Where do mice live?

The dry warmth of a house or flat earmarks human dwellings as prime locations in mouse real estate, especially during the winter. Mouse nests – built from cloth, wool and paper – are often found behind kick boards in kitchens, in roof spaces, under floors or in wall cavities and wherever there is access to a plentiful supply of food.

What do mice eat?

Despite a reputation as cheese enthusiasts, mice will only nibble on the stuff when there is no alternative food source available. Best described as opportunistic omnivores, they prefer to graze on food rich in carbohydrates; grains, cereals, fruits, seeds and insects. But, as natural scavengers, they're not fussy eaters and have been known to snack on discarded takeaways, scraps of meat, crisps and have a soft spot for chocolate!



DID YOU KNOW?

By flattening out their bodies, mice can squeeze through gaps as small as 6mm - that's roughly the size of a pencil!



DID YOU KNOW?

Mice have a set of incisor teeth that never stop growing, which is why they're constantly gnawing on anything they can get their paws on!

Are mice bad for my health?

Unfortunately, despite their arguably adorable appearance, mice have been known to be carriers of disease which can spread to humans, such as salmonella and listeria. Additionally, their gnawing can cause serious damage to your property, by chewing through packaging, woodwork, gas and water pipes and electrical cables.

What are the signs of infestation?

Signs of an infestation is relatively easy to spot, once you know what you're looking for. Look out for small and dark droppings roughly the size of a grain of rice, scattered randomly around the house, but especially along skirting boards or in kitchen cupboards. You might also notice a strong smell of urine and with a particularly bad infestation, you might come across a urine pillar – body grease combined with dirt and urine building into small mounds, up to 4cm high and 1cm wide.

You may also hear scratching or scabbling during the night, as mice are nocturnal and scavenge for their food whilst we sleep. Listen for noises between partition walls, under floorboards, in false ceilings, basements and lofts. And of course, little gnaw marks on food, food containers and even electrical cables are a strong indication that you've got a mouse in your house.

How can I avoid a mouse infestation?

A natural inquisitiveness combined with agility make mice experts in breaking into homes, but there are some preventative measures you can take to mouse-proof your house. Make sure all holes, vents and gaps are

sealed, either by filling them in or covering with wire mesh and fit bristle strips to doors. Store food in airtight containers, dispose of rubbish regularly and keep dustbins firmly closed.

How to de-mouse your house

Highly adaptable, nimble and able to breed rapidly, mouse infestations are best dealt with by professionals, as a proper de-infestation requires skills, expertise and experience. Standard treatments include the use of approved rodenticides and various types of traps, depending on what is deemed as suitable.

There are some DIY options available, such as poison pellets and bait packages, but these products must be used with extreme caution and you should always read the label and follow the manufacturer's safety instructions. For the safety of your family – especially if you have young children or pets – it's best to contact a pest control professional.

