

Rodent prevention and control

Rats and mice are adaptable pests that can nest in houses, sheds, garages, and gardens. They can cause bad smells, damage property, and pose health risks by spreading diseases and contaminating food.

When inspecting your property for signs of rodents, look for:

- small black droppings (about 1.5 centimetres for rats, and a few millimetres for mice)
- gnawing damage on fruits, vegetables, wood, wiring, or food containers
- greasy rub marks on walls or skirting boards where they travel
- burrow holes near structures or under debris.

Here are some tips to help you prevent rodent activity:

- Keep your home and property clear of rubbish by regularly cleaning sheds and storage areas, and getting rid of unwanted items.
- Ensure rubbish bins have tight-fitting lids and are emptied regularly.
- Stack materials like wood or garden supplies on raised platforms with open space underneath to minimise hiding spots.
- Remove overgrown bushes and grass, and trim any plants that could provide cover or access to your roof.
- Clear fallen fruit, seeds, and waste from aviaries, chicken pens, and other pet enclosures.
- Avoid composting animal products like fish, meat, or cheese.
- Store pet food in containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Block holes or any other access points in your home.

Homeowners and tenants are responsible for controlling pests on their property and should minimise conditions that attract rodents. A licensed pest controller can recommend the best control methods for your situation.

If rats or mice pose a public health risk, Council officers may take action under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, which could include issuing improvement or prohibition notices.

For more information on controlling rodents, visit the Department of Health at www.health.vic.gov.au/environmental-health/rodents-pest-control