Rodents

Health and Safety Impacts

Both rats and mice can:

- Carry and transmit disease
- Carry fleas or ticks which can harm pets and humans
- Contaminate food with their hair, droppings and urine resulting in food poisoning
- Cause fires by gnawing on electrical wires or damage to buildings by chewing on insulation, siding and wallboard

Temporary Closed Food Premises

Any buildings especially those that handle food may under normal circumstances attract rats and mice seeking food and shelter. With the recent temporary closure of business any food left behind could potentially attracting pests that will take the opportunity to infest these undisturbed premises.

Rats are a serious health risk. They carry disease-causing bacteria (including leptospirosis) and other pathogens on their bodies, in their urine and in their faeces. They urinate and defecate frequently as they run across food preparation surfaces, dishware, and utensils and into any food they can access.

Business owners and managers should take the opportunity to seal up as many rodent entry points as possible. Additionally, a pest control company can help by doing a thorough survey of your building as well as using more effective rodent proofing materials and techniques. Checking your temporarily closed premises frequently also serves to disturb any rodents possibly seeking a safe haven with a food supply.

Monitor for rodent activities by checking along intersection of walls and floor, behind equipment and containers. Look for droppings that are spindle shape, brown to dark brown in colour and about 9mm-14mm long resembling that of large grain of rice.

**Did you know that rats can produce
up to 40 droppings a night?**

Waste Disposal

If rodents cannot find food and shelter they cannot multiply, therefore a clean and secure waste storage area is critical. All outside garbage areas, including bins and waste oil containers must be well arranged and as clean as possible.

Avoid any kind of food spillage, which can attract rodents. These areas should be inspected daily and maintained.

Around the house

The following measures can be taken to control and prevent rodent infestations around the house.

- Keep gardens clean and tidy. Regularly cut grass and remove weeds from your garden.

- Do not plant flowers and shrubs close to your house which create nesting or hiding places.

- Remove any discovered nesting sites.

- Remove unused items in your house, garage and sheds that may be used for nesting or hiding places.

- Do not store old and unused piles of timber, tires, structures, furniture and cars in the yard.

- Store firewood and timber off the ground.

- Keep all garbage in rodent-proof containers, metal or plastic, with tight-fitting lids.

- Properly maintain compost and keep it away from the house.

- Remove any fallen fruits in your garden.

- Provide bird feeders with trays and regularly clean spilled seeds.

- Keep any bird bath clean.

- Do not leave pet food outside overnight.

- Keep your kitchen clean. Store dry food and dry pet food in a metal or glass container

Pest Control Company

Selecting a pest control service is just as important as selecting other professional services. Any company should inspect your premises and outline a recommended control program, including the following:

- Pests to be controlled.
- Extent of the problem.
- Active ingredient(s) in the pesticide chosen.
- Potential adverse health effects and typical symptoms of poisoning associated with the active ingredient.
- Form of the pesticide and application techniques.
- Nonchemical alternatives available.
- Special instructions to reduce your exposure to the pesticide (such as vacating the house, emptying the cupboards, and removing pets).
- Steps to take to minimise your pest problems in the future.

For further information
Please contact Council's Environmental Health Officer or our Customer Service team if you have any concerns or questions:

Phone: 9330 6400
E-mail: mail@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au

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