



RODENT CONTROL IN SHROPSHIRE

Helping the local community of Shropshire to avoid problems with rodents this Autumn and Winter.

The Brown Rat, or "Rattus Norvegicus" is by far the most common Rat in the U.K. Often found where there is human activity, this public health pest is described as being the most successful mammal on the planet after humans.

Unwittingly we (humans) make it easy for rodents to thrive by providing the 3 things that most pests require – access to shelter (warmth), food and water. Often, we see Rats in Shropshire exploiting weaknesses and living in and around homes, farm buildings, chicken coops and anywhere else they can make a shelter or forage food.

Why is it important to deal with a rat problem....?

- **Damage Caused by Rats**- Rats are Omnivores and can and will eat pretty much anything. They also have an uncontrollable urge to gnaw or chew, this trait alone can cause severe damage to building structures, walls, timber beams, water pipes and electrical cables.
- **Rats Spread Disease** - Rats are also a carrier of numerous Pathogens which cause diseases such as Weills disease, Rat Bite Fever, Cryptosporidiosis, Viral Hemorrhagic Fever and Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome as well as many many more. Because of this reason alone it is important to have any Rat infestation looked at and dealt with properly by a trained professional as soon as you think you may have Rats.
- **Rat Cause Distress** – Many people relate to this emotion as it is not unusual for the site or thought of rats to cause distress and concern.

How to know if you have Rats...?

You may notice one or more of the following signs which could point to a Rat Control issue;

Hearing scratching or scraping noises in the loft or wall cavity

Rats love to nest inside the insulation in lofts and wall cavities and can often be heard scurrying around at night or chewing on the wooden beams in the roof.

Finding droppings

You may notice small brown droppings in places near where they are living or are travelling through

Unusual odours

You may notice a strange tangy or musty smell coming from the wall cavities or loft

Visible Burrows

Rats love to burrow and often create quite extensive tunnel networks with multiple entry points which they use to live and breed in. You may notice round holes appear in your garden, amongst shrubbery or underneath something solid like the edge of a building. Places particularly prone to this type of activity are chicken coops, farm buildings and cattle sheds with their abundance of readily available food.

Sighting of Rats

Whilst not very common, you may in more serious cases actually see Rats during daylight hours. They may be travelling along a well used run, or feeding from a chicken or bird feeder. This is often a sign that there is large numbers of them as they will typically only come out in the day when there is lots of competition over food.

How to avoid the problem in the first place...?

5 simple steps you can take to avoid Rats and Mice in or around your property.....

Rats and mice live with us in the natural environment, as they say "*you are never more than a few meters from a rat*". Not sure if that has ever been proved but it illustrates the fact that there are plenty of rodents living around us.

The good news is that by taking these 5 SIMPLE STEPS you could avoid or reduce the chance of unwelcome visitors to your property, or around your property.

1. **TIGHT LIDS....** make sure all bins containing rubbish or waste have a properly secured lid. Rodents will exploit any openings or gaps.
2. **MIND THE GAP....** look around the outside of your property, garage and shed for gaps and holes – FILL ANY GAPS. Key areas to look – pipe work, drains and doors. (FACT - Mice will fit through a hole the width of a pencil.)
3. **DON'T BLAME THE BIRDS** – many people like to feed the birds (it's a nice thing to do). Any "feed" is a good source of food for rats. If you do want to feed the birds use..... And keep it off the ground (use a bird feeder)
4. **LOVE THE COMPOST** – this is a favourite area for rats. Stand your compost bin on a hard surface (a complete slab) or a strong wire mesh. This will stop rats from digging into the compost.
5. **IF CONCERNED OR NOT SURE....** Give us a call...??

Keep well and you know where I am if you need me.

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