

# Pests in your home

Finding pests in your home isn't nice but there are things you can do to prevent and remove them safely

## Spotting the signs

### Mice and rats



Mice and rats are one of the most common household pests – mice tend to live inside whereas rats can be found in gardens, garages or sheds.

They'll eat almost anything and are most likely to be found where there's food.

#### Look out for:

- Damage to packets of food, electrical cables, woodwork and shredded paper/plastic which is often used for nesting
- Unusual smells
- Scratching noises in the walls and ceiling
- Burrows in gardens, near rubbish, food and compost heaps
- Droppings

### Cockroaches



#### Look out for:

- Damage to household items including packets of food and furnishings
- Black/brown droppings approximately 2mm long
- Unusual smells
- Smear marks
- Shed skins
- Egg capsules

### Fleas



#### Look out for:

- Pets scratching themselves
- Hair loss in pets
- Flea eggs in carpets
- Fleas jumping in carpets
- Flea bites

### Wasps



#### Look out for:

- Visible structures/nests (you can often find wasp nests in wall cavities, roof spaces, under eaves, in bird boxes, sheds or garages)
- Buzzing sounds
- High numbers of wasps/bees

### Squirrels



#### Look out for:

- Sounds of scratching or rustling from attic, loft or wall cavity
- Damage in your home
- Droppings in the attic/loft
- A bad smell

As part of your tenancy with us, you're responsible for removing pests from your home. We'll help you take care of pests in shared areas in blocks and schemes.

# Preventing and getting rid of pests

If you find pests in your home you'll need to follow the points below. You'll also need to contact your local authority as they can help take care of them for free or a small charge.



## Mice and rats



- Keep food in sealed, pest proof containers and clear any spilt food or liquids immediately
- Don't leave unsealed pet food in your home or garden
- Regularly clean under kitchen units, cookers and white goods
- Do not allow your garden to become overgrown
- If you feed the birds in your garden don't put food on the ground and don't feed them 'human food' as this can attract rats
- Don't feed birds in baited areas
- Remove rubbish and other material that might provide food or nesting material
- If you have a compost bin or compost pile DO NOT put any meat or fish waste into them
- Don't leave old furniture or mattresses outside
- If you have a wheelie bin put your rubbish in bags before putting it in the bin
- Keep your property, garden, drive or pathway well maintained and in good clean condition

## Cockroaches



- Don't leave dirty dishes lying around
- Clean up crumbs from floors and counters
- Keep food in sealed, pest proof containers
- Don't leave unsealed pet food lying around in your home or garden
- Remove rubbish and other material that might provide food
- Make sure all your rubbish bins are covered/sealed

## Fleas



- Keep grass and shrubs in your garden trimmed and mowed – this will discourage wild animals from coming into your garden and bringing fleas
- If you have a pet, you can buy treatments and flea combs
- Hoover your home and change the hoover bag frequently
- Clean carpets, bedding and soft furnishing regularly
- Make sure you keep your pet clean
- You can buy sprays for your carpet to deter fleas

## Wasps



- Make sure all your outdoor waste containers (rubbish and recycling bins, compost piles etc) are covered/sealed
- Clean up any food/drink that you consume outside straight away
- Keep food/drink covered when not using to stop wasps picking up the scent
- Clear away overripe fruit from fruit trees quickly and dispose using a sealed bag
- Spray common nesting areas with insect repellent – you can buy it in shops or make your own
- Buy wasp traps in shops or make your own by filling an old water bottle with sugar water or fruit juice

## Squirrels



- Keep your tree branches trimmed so that none are touching or within 8 feet of the roof
- Visual deterrents such as plastic owls/cats/snakes can be used to scare squirrels away
- Cover planted seeds with a wire mesh to help prevent the squirrels from coming to eat them



## I still have pests

If you've tried all of the above and the pests are still a problem, give us a call and we may be able to help. 0345 60 20 540.

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