

Rodent Fact Sheet

Rodents such as rats or mice, pose a health concern in the community. They can spread disease, transmit fleas to pets and cause damage to buildings. Rodents are attracted to water, shelter and food, which is why they are often found in houses.

The City of Subiaco provides free sample rat baits. House owners and residents in the City of Subiaco are entitled to two allocations of sample bait each financial year, or four allocations in the case of pension/concession card holders.

Spot the rodent

There are a number of signs that indicate there is a rodent in your homes. You might notice:

- Droppings (twelve to eighteen mm long)
- Debris such as snail shells with the insides eaten out, almond shells, cape lilac berries left in the shells and other secluded spots around the house
- Signs that fruit and vegetables have been eaten
- Squeaking or movement noises in walls, ceilings or under floors
- Signs of gnawing damage.

Control of rodents

Rats can be discouraged and controlled by denying them water, food and shelter.

A few simple precautions should be followed:

- Store firewood away from shed sides and keep well clear of the ground.
- Do not allow junk to accumulate in sheds
- Do not allow garden refuse (leaves, grass clippings) to accumulate for any length of time
- Rubbish bins should be well maintained and free from holes

- Clean up food scraps around the yard weekly
- Block access holes with material such as wire mesh. Rats can climb a rough faced brick wall to gain access to a house via the roof.

These methods can be used in conjunction with rat-baiting for effective control.

How to use rat baits

The most effective method of eliminating rodents is to use active preventative measures in combination with the placement of anti-coagulant rodent baits. These baits are very effective as rodents are incapable of ridding themselves of the rodenticide they consume.

Once you have noted where the rodents are active, remove all food sources, but do not disturb any articles such as boxes, junk or firewood at the nesting site, as this will cause them to disperse.

Place the baits in dark covered areas such as roofs, behind fridges and stoves and where the baits are nesting.

Monitor the use of baits every few days. Replace all baits and maintain a supply for at least two weeks after you note that no more bait has been eaten. Don't be fooled when baits remain untouched for several days, it is preferable to leave fresh baits in place for at least two weeks after the last bait was taken.

Precautions should be taken when handling rat bait. Always read the label before use, and use gloves or wash hands immediately after touching the rat bait.

Homemade rat bait traps

Step 1 – Empty a trash can. Take a PVC pipe, making sure it is at least 1.5 inches in diameter and long enough so that one end touches the floor and the other leads into the trash can at the top at a diagonal angle, and secure to the trash can using duct tape.

Step 2 – Place some peanut butter at the base of the PVC pipe to entice the rat. Put some cheese in the bottom of the trash can so that the rat drops down to get at the cheese after climbing up the pipe.

Step 3 – Once the rat has dropped into the trash can it will be trapped. Simply check the can every day and then either release the rats somewhere away from your garden or home, or kill by dropping rat poison into the trash can.

If you have any concerns regarding contact, you should call the Poisons Information line on 13 11 26.

For further information regarding rodent control, please do contact the City on (08) 9237 9254.

This information is available in alternative formats upon request.