

BPCA

**British Pest
Control
Association**

MEMBER

Appoint a professional

The British Pest Control Association (BPCA) is the premier trade association for professional Pest Control Companies in the UK. By choosing a BPCA assessed member you can be assured that the services you receive are from a trained and trusted company that meets our strict membership criteria. The BPCA member logo is earned by our members, so ensure your contractor has it.

Further information

You can find your local BPCA member either on the website at bpca.org.uk or by calling 01332 294288.



www.bpca.org.uk

**The UK's largest
and leading pest
control association**

A professional service from a BPCA member will:

- Be carried out by a suitably trained and qualified expert committed to Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
- Adhere to our Industry Code of Practice
- Include detailed advice on pest prevention measures
- Provide comprehensive reporting systems covering all treatment aspects
- Meet legal and 'due diligence' requirements, comply with legislation and avoid possible prosecution
- Be safe, ensuring staff, customers and members of the public are protected through RISK and COSHH assessments

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Follow us on twitter @britpestcontrol

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Pest Advice Leaflet



Mice

www.bpca.org.uk

About Mice

The House Mouse, and sometimes the Long-Tailed Field Mouse are found in buildings as they seek the warmth and shelter for nesting sites and food.

- **Appearance** - The House Mouse body length ranges between 60-90mm and the tail can add an additional 100mm. They weigh less than 25g, and their fur colour varies between light brown and grey.
- **Characteristics** - Mice have an acute sense of hearing, frequently using ultrasound to communicate, and are particularly sensitive to any sudden noise. Their presence is usually detected from their dark-coloured droppings or damage to stored foods in the larder, packaging or woodwork.
- **Habitat** - Mice live in nests that they build out of cloth, wool and paper. Nests are often built inside houses, in places such as roof spaces, under floors or in wall cavities, and wherever there is access to a good source of food, especially during the winter. Mice can squeeze through cracks as small as 5mm but mouse holes are normally 20-30mm in diameter. Mice are mainly active at night and can often be heard running about as they search for food.
- **Diet** - Mice are erratic, sporadic feeders, nibbling at many sources of food rather than taking repeated meals from any one item. They do not need free water to drink as they normally obtain sufficient moisture from their food. Their favourite foods are cereal products, although they will eat almost anything.

Why control Mice?



Mice have been known to spread some nasty diseases to humans such as Salmonella, Listeria, which can cause food poisoning.



These nibbling nuisances have a compulsive need to gnaw in order to keep their incisor teeth worn down to a constant length. Electric cables, water and gas pipes, packaging and woodwork may all be seriously damaged by mice - many instances of electrical fires and floods have been attributed to them.



Mice can ruin an organisation's reputation. If clients and customers spot evidence of rodent infestation in the premises you manage, they are unlikely to want to do business with you.



Signs of a mouse activity

- **Mice droppings** - Droppings are often black, rod shaped and 3-6mm long. Fresh droppings will be soft and moist. Each mouse can leave approximately 80 droppings per day. Common places to find mouse droppings are under the kitchen sink, around central heating boilers and in roof spaces.
- **Smear marks** - These are dark grey marks left on surfaces by repeated contact with the oils in mouse fur.
- **Nests** - Sometimes nests can be found indoors for example in lofts, under floorboards or in airing cupboards.
- **Gnawing** - Mice gnaw continually on materials such as wood, carpets, paper, pipe cables and furniture. Check for damage to foodstuffs in cupboards.

How to prevent Mice

- **Eliminate any harbourage points** such as sealing gaps around pipes and under sheds; Mice only need a gap of 5mm to gain entry, but normally they are 20-30mm in diameter.
- **Remove potential nesting sites** by keeping yards and gardens clean and tidy, by cutting back overgrown areas and clearing any piles of wood/debris.
- **Cover any household waste** where rats can get access to it, close dustbin lids and cover compost heaps.

How to get rid of Mice

It is important to get rid of mice quickly, as Mice are adaptable, highly mobile and breed rapidly - this combination can make mouse control a difficult task for the untrained individual. For any mouse infestation, we would always recommend contacting a professional pest control company, preferably a member of the BPCA. They are trained in mouse control and will have access to a range of professional use rodenticides which are not available to the public.

If you decide to carry out the work yourself then you can buy amateur use poisons and traps from a hardware store or garden centre. However, due to their habits, traditional baiting techniques and trapping frequently do not work, and a combination of rodenticides may be necessary. An alternative to using poisons are break-back traps. You may catch mice if baited with nutty chocolate, raisins or similar attractive food and placed close to signs of mouse activity. Ironically, cheese is a comparatively poor mouse-baiter. Place traps close to, and at right angles to, walls so the treadle may be activated from either direction. When placing poison or traps, make sure they are in a safe and secure place out of reach of children and pets.

In addition, proofing all means of entry as much possible will help to prevent entry. Blocking holes with wire wool embedded in quick-setting cement, and fit metal strips to doors to prevent mice from entering.

WARNING: When using rodenticides always follow the instructions on the label, and importantly search for and dispose of any dead rodents in a safe manner.