

FACT SHEET

Mice

Mus Musculus and
Apodemus Sylvaticus



08444 828 321 Local Rate
7p per minute
Peak Time Excludes
Fixed Line Services

03444 828 321 Basic Rate
Mobile Friendly

not 24 hour

SDK Environmental Limited
trading as Dial A Pest
Slough Campus
Unit 9 The Business Village
Wexham Road
Slough SL2 5HF

Full terms and conditions can be found at
www.dialapest.co.uk

Generally speaking there are two species of mice which enter houses in the UK. These are the house mouse and wood mouse. House mice originated in Asia but have since spread throughout the world. Along with brown rats, they are considered to be the most widespread terrestrial mammal other than humans. In modern warm houses and with a supply of food available, house mice can breed all year round. Wood mice only move indoors in autumn and winter time to escape the cold weather.



Both species mice need 3 grams (about 1/8th ounce) of food per day to survive and provided there is moisture in the food mice can manage without needing further liquids. Despite popular belief, their favourite food is not cheese, but grains and cereal products, so the larder of a modern house, with packets of breakfast cereals is ideal. For variety, mice will nibble at anything else available, including fruit and vegetables. As their

sense of taste is not as keenly developed as that of humans they can survive on items which surprise us such as soap, candles, or almost anything that has some trace of fat or nutrition. The ability to survive on tiny amounts of food and the fast breeding rate mean that mouse infestations develop quickly. By the time you see a mouse running across the floor it is very likely that the infestation includes not just the mouse you see, but all its relatives.

The signs of a mouse infestation are the damage caused during feeding - loose foods such as sugar scattered in cupboards and food packages nibbled round the edges. Mouse droppings are black, and about the size of a grain of rice. They will be scattered everywhere that mice roam, but particularly in corners of cupboards or around food packages. Although mice eat only small amounts of food each day, they tend to nibble and urinate liberally. Most of the damage caused by mice is due to the contamination of food.

Mouse Control



If you have evidence of mice in your kitchen cupboard, check all food packages carefully: discard all open packets and any packets that show signs of damage and transfer new food out of paper and cardboard packaging into mouse proof containers. Glass jars with screw lids or heavy plastic containers with strong snap on lids are ideal.

Mouse traps can be effective, but unless you have just one or two mice they will not clear an infestation. The average domestic cat is generally not effective at eradicating infestations. It may catch, play with, and kill single mice, but it is only a game. The best way to control mice is to use poisons which have been specifically designed for the purpose. Once poison is laid and consumed, mice will start to die quickly. There is a risk that if a mouse dies in an inaccessible location under the floor or behind built in furniture there may be a smell. Where safe and practical to do so attempt to remove the body, but if this cannot be done without damage to your house, the smell will go away in about a week, and during this time it can be masked with an air freshener.

Please note that SDK Environmental do not provide a service for mouse control in outdoor situations



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Schedule 4

Terms Specific to Rodent Treatments

1. Our Service is to attend your premises, inspect the relevant area and treat the active rodent habitat with the intention of controlling the pest. If it is, in our opinion, appropriate to try to eradicate the pest, we shall do so, but this is often inappropriate and depends on many factors including the location and proximity to other people's property.
2. The price of the Service is for treating a single domestic property (including the immediate gardens and grounds) occupied by one family. An additional fee will be charged if the premises is occupied by more than one family, additional treatments are needed or if any treatments are required in outbuildings, stables or land where domestic pets or livestock are present. However in some situations, due to the safety of the livestock, treatments within these additional areas may not be appropriate and we reserve the right to refuse to treat them. If the price has been pre-paid and we refuse to treat the area, or you decide not to make the additional payment, the amount pre-paid shall be returned to you without charge.
3. The price will depend on which type of pests you wish us to treat. We will only treat squirrels that are inside the premises.
4. Clause 4.3 shall apply to the extent that we, at our absolute discretion, determine necessary, up to a maximum of three visits. In some situations, a single treatment is sufficient and in other cases two or three are needed.
5. Before the first visit and until the final visit, you hereby agree:
 - a. not to move any poisons or tamper with equipment / bait stations;
 - b. not to interfere with our treatment in any way, or try to treat the rodents yourself or allow anyone else to do so;
 - c. to comply with all the instructions we provide (whether in writing or not) including those in relation to tidying the premises and maintaining it in a clean and tidy condition;
 - d. to remove any bird feeders and rectify any defects in the structure of any compost heaps, and you acknowledge that if you fail to comply with any of these requirements, we shall be entitled to stop the treatment, as it will be compromised, and you will still be charged.
6. In compliance with animal welfare requirements, on occasions where humane traps are used in any rodent treatment, you hereby agree to inspect each trap at least twice daily and in the event that a rodent has been caught and has not been killed outright, you must contact us immediately on 03444 828 321. In the event that you are unable to contact us, you must contact a veterinary practice and arrange for a suitably qualified practitioner to visit the property and kill the rodent to avoid unnecessary suffering. SDK will refund to you any fees incurred up to a value of £150 provided that you supply a valid written invoice and report from the vet.
7. Where there is evidence of infestations emanating from private or public sewers or from breaches in soil drains we may require you to obtain specialised inspections or works. We cannot inspect or treat utility company sewers.
8. We will inspect the infected areas and we will treat it if, in our reasonable opinion, it is necessary, practical and safe to do so by installing appropriate traps.
9. The Service does not include the removal of any dead rodent carcasses and we shall not accept any liability for not doing so.
10. We will not create openings or interfere with the structure of your property when treating it is your responsibility to ensure we have suitable access to areas where treatment is required.
11. We may mention a few ways to help reduce the risk of the pests coming back, for which there shall be no additional fee. However, this is not included within the price, we shall not be under any obligation to provide such advice and we shall not accept any responsibility for any such advice we give.
12. We are legally obliged to remove all rodenticides laid at your property when our treatment ends for whatever reason. You shall ensure that we have free access to do this.
13. The service is to treat a single domestic property in single family occupancy and where mice and rats are encountered the appropriate fee for each species will be required.

