

# FACT SHEET

## Rats

### Rattus Norvegicus



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

03444 828 321 Basic Rate  
Mobile Friendly

not 24 hour

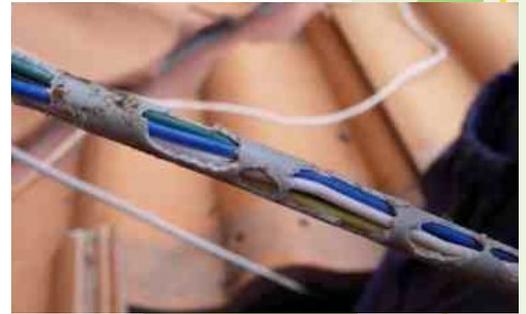
SDK Environmental Limited  
trading as Dial A Pest  
Slough Campus  
Unit 9 The Business Village  
Wexham Road  
Slough SL2 5HF

Full terms and conditions can be found at  
[www.dialapest.co.uk](http://www.dialapest.co.uk)

Rats are quite common in both rural and urban areas and apart from the damage they cause they are also carriers of serious diseases. A rat colony can start with one individual pregnant rat moving into a new area and unless there are obvious signs of damage such as torn packages or droppings, the infestation may not be noticed in the early stages. Except when there are a lot of rats, or food is scarce, they will generally only come out at night and daylight sightings are unlikely. Pregnancy lasts about 21 days and a single female on average produces a litter of about 6 - 8 young. These can feed themselves after 3 weeks and reproduce when about 8 - 12 weeks old.

Mortality of the young is high, but even so a rat infestation can grow very quickly. As the number of rats increases, rat presence and damage become obvious. Signs of an infestation may be one or many of the following;

- Holes where rats are burrowing
- Smooth tracks (runs) where rats are running along a route
- Damage to food containers and cartons as rats gnaw at them
- Droppings (black, about the size of a peanut)
- Sighting of rats



### Rat Control

As a rule, rat traps and cats will only remove some rats without eradicating the infestation and rats are resistant to many of the older poisons on sale to the general public. By the time an ineffective treatment has failed, the time and money wasted could have been spent using a trained professional to carry out the treatment. In addition it may not be rats that are causing the problem; other species can be mistaken for rats, particularly in outdoor locations where the only evidence is holes and runs. Many species of wildlife such as voles are fully protected by law and poisoning is an offence: Therefore assessment of your infestation by a trained professional is a wise investment.



Controlling rats starts with a thorough survey to check the size and nature of the problem; if required, poison will then be laid in the most suitable locations. A pest control technician can choose the more effective professional poisons and can vary the way the bait is laid to take advantage of the rat's natural habits. Professional pest controllers also have access to purpose made poison bait boxes, to ensure poison is laid safely and in accordance with the law. Rats should start to die within a week and if the infestation is a small one, control will be fairly quick. In a larger infestation, it may take a while until the more timid rats are able to feed freely

and eat enough bait to be killed. Most of the poisons used will require rats to feed for several days; this makes them safer to use around houses. One dose does not kill, but it is important that the rats should have little other food than the poison bait. The pest control technician will explain how you can help by removing other sources of food. **Dogs in particular are very susceptible to poisoning by rodenticides.**

For any treatment to be effective there are certain actions you the householder needs to take before and after any treatment provided, all responsible companies will advise you what you must do.



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### Reducing Food Sources

### Rodents - Why Me? My House and Garden are Immaculate!

### Is Your Compost Heap Providing Dinner for Anyone Else?

If your compost heap includes waste food scraps, teabags, eggshells, etc, as it could encourage rodent pests.

Follow these hints to avoid trouble :

- Do not make a loose compost heap like our illustration
- Use a purpose made container - your local council or garden centre can provide advice
- To work with best efficiency, the container should have no base so that the compost heap sits directly on the soil
- Make the compost heap rat proof by sitting the container on two layers of strong wire mesh such as chicken wire
- Do not use plastic mesh as rats can eat through this



### Please – Don't Feed the Birds

It is very important that rodents do not have access to any food other than the poison bait we put down.

Please help us - do not put out any seed, nuts, or food scraps either on bird tables or in the garden. The extra food could mean that treatment will take much, much longer, or may even not be successful at all.

Pest control requires the co-operation of our customers if it is to be successful. If you do not follow the advice given, the treatment may fail. In such cases our technicians are required, by company policy and by best practice in the use of poisons, to cease treatment.

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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.

