

# Rats

## *An informative guide for residents...*



Rats can transmit many diseases to humans, including Salmonellosis (food poisoning) and Weils disease, usually from the urine of infected rats. Rats may also cause considerable damage to buildings, foundations and other structures due to gnawing and burrowing.

### **What do rats look like?**

The common rat typically has brownish fur on its back and is grey underneath, but colour can vary from white through to black. The adult body length is 200-270mm, plus a tail length of 150-200mm. Rats have excellent senses of smell and taste. They have an acute sense of hearing and are particularly sensitive to any sudden noises.

### **What are the signs of infestation?**

Rats are particularly active at night, but may be seen during the day searching for food, water or shelter. Common rat droppings are capsule-shaped, (tapered at both ends), black and up to 12mm long.

A rat will leave about 40 droppings a day. Fresh droppings will be soft and moist.

### **Runs**

Rats follow the same routes when moving around and often leave trails through grass and low vegetation.

### **Footprints, smears and tail swipes.**

These can be seen on muddy or dusty surfaces. Smears are dark grey marks left on surfaces by repeated contact with the oils in rat fur.

### **Burrows**

Rats can build complex tunnel systems,

which often extend deep into the ground. Entrance holes 70-120mm in diameter will be seen in grassy banks, under tree roots and at the edge of the paving or drain cover surrounds.

## Nests

Sometimes nests can be found indoors, in lofts or under floorboards.

## Gnawing

Rats gnaw continually to wear down their front teeth, even on non-food materials such as electrical cables, pipework and wooden fixtures.

## How can I prevent a rat infestation?

You can take a number of precautions:

- Keep your home in good repair, rats only need a gap of 15mm to gain entry
- Remove potential nesting sites by keeping yards and gardens clean and tidy, and by cutting back overgrown areas
- Ensure that the drain inspection covers are in place and are in good repair
- Seal gaps around heating and water pipes inside and outside

- Ventilation bricks and slots should already have a fine wire mesh incorporated. If this is worn, replace it externally with 3.15mm insect mesh
- Do not leave household waste where rats can get access to it, close dustbins lids and composters and do not feed wild birds to excess—you may be feeding rodents as well

## Control measures

There are two methods of control available:

- Trapping
- Rodenticide (chemical treatment)

## We provide:

- FREE treatment for dealing with rats & mice to domestic properties in Burnley
- FREE information and advice



**Call us now for a swift, confidential and professional service.**

All our staff are RSPH level 2 qualified and are members of Basis Prompt, the Professional Pest Controllers Register with more than 50 years experience.



### Contact:

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