

# Rats and mice

## — prevention and control

Rats and mice are adaptable pests and nest in places, such as: houses; sheds; garages and gardens. They can cause unpleasant odours and damage to property. Rodents can also pose a risk to human health by carrying diseases and contaminating food.

Rodents are generally more active at night so when inspecting for rodent activity look for:

- Black and moist droppings.
- Signs of gnawing damage on fruits and vegetables or materials, such as: wood, particle board or wiring.
- Greasy rub marks on walls or skirting boards where rodents travel regularly.
- Burrow holes close to sheds or under debris.

To reduce rodent numbers on your property:

- Keep your home and property clear of rubbish by regularly cleaning out sheds, storage areas and disposing of unwanted items.
- All rubbish bins should have tight fitting lids and be emptied regularly.
- Keep stacked materials, such as: wood or garden supplies, on raised platforms with an open area underneath to minimise rodent hiding and nesting places.
- Remove unwanted undergrowth and cut grass and bushes, which may provide cover or access to the roof.
- Dispose of fallen fruit, seed and waste from aviaries, chicken pens and other pet enclosures.
- Do not compost animal products, such as: fish; meat and cheese.
- Store pet food in containers with tight fitting lids.
- Block holes and any other access points in your home.

Owners and occupiers are responsible for pest control on their properties and should minimise conditions that may enable rodents to live and breed on their property.

For further information on controlling rodents, contact a licensed pest control company or visit the RSPCA at [www.rspca.org.au](http://www.rspca.org.au)