RATS IN FESTATIONS

Public enemy number one.

Rats in your home can spread disease, they will also damage your property with their constant gnawing, attack your food and contaminate it with their hairs, urine and droppings, they could also chew their way through electrical cables presenting a potential fire risk. Even in the garden they are putting you, your family and pets at risk by contaminating garden ponds and bird baths, helping themselves to fish food and other pet foods that may be stored in sheds or garage and sometimes nesting there. They will also get into compost bins for feeding and nesting purposes and have been known to attack family pets.

Do rats hibernate?

Rats don’t hibernate they are active all year round. However, breeding usually slows down during the winter months unless they find a nice kind soul who will unwittingly invite them into their home offering them the ideal environment in which to raise their young. The common rat is sexually mature at 8-12 weeks, the gestation period is approximately 3 weeks and the average size litter under favourable conditions will be about 7 and they are weaned in 3-4 weeks.
**How do I eradicate an infestation?**

Why wait until you have an infestation of this disease carrying rodent before taking action?

When it comes to rat’s, prevention really is better than cure. There are many things that you can do to reduce the risk of infestation. The first step is to walk all round the outside of your home checking for any possible points where rats could gain access. Look for broken air-bricks, any holes left in the exterior wall where a waste pipe has been removed, any open brickwork where building work is in progress, any large gaps at base of doors etc, all such gaps should be sealed to deny rats access. Don’t confine your inspection to ground level, because rats will use to full advantage trees, ivy and other plants that are near or directly against a building and possibly gain entry to upper areas including the loft. When your inspection to the perimeter of the building is finished, you should then check the garden area. Ideally the garden shed should be on a solid concrete base and sited at least ½ a meter away from the fence and have small gauge wire mesh fitted all round the bottom to prevent rats getting underneath. The gap between the fence and shed should be kept clear to facilitate the removal of leaves and rubbish to prevent rats nesting.

Composting should be carried out in purpose made bins and placed on heavy gauge mesh to reduce the risk of rats gaining access. All garden waste that is not for composting should be taken to the civic amenity tip as soon as possible and not left in the garden. If you feed the birds, this should be on a suitable size bird table with a raised edge to prevent food falling onto the ground. Bird feeding is best done in the morning, as this is the most beneficial time for them, any bird feed remaining by mid afternoon should be removed and never left out over night otherwise you could be treating rats to a slap up meal.
If you require any further information please contact our Pest Control Department at the following address:

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