

## Cleaning your home after a problem with Rats or Mice

### Introduction

Rodents can carry a number of diseases, some of which can make humans ill. For your safety it is important that you thoroughly clean areas of your home where rodents have been. It's especially important to clean areas where you prepare or eat food.

You don't need any special chemicals or equipment. Normal household cleaning products will work fine. Read the label for details of how to dilute and use. Do not combine different chemicals. Check the instructions on the bottle to make sure they are safe to apply to the surface you need to clean – for example do not use diluted bleach on textiles and carpets as this may discolour them.

For your protection we recommend that you wear disposable gloves e.g. washing up gloves.

### Rodent Droppings

Mouse droppings are approximately 6 mm ( $\frac{1}{4}$  inch) long, and rat droppings measure up to 19 mm ( $\frac{3}{4}$  inch) long.



**Do not sweep or vacuum up mouse or rat urine, or droppings.** This may cause dust to go into the air, where it can be breathed in. Instead you should first dampen the droppings by spraying them with diluted disinfectant or household detergent.

Wait approximately 5 minutes to give the detergent or disinfectant time to work.

Wipe up droppings with a wet wipe, paper towel, or disposable cloth. Place these in a bag and throw them away once you're finished.

### Rodent Urine

Rodents urinate as they move, so you will not find pools of urine. In most cases you'll not be able to see urine. Urine can be removed by wiping or mopping hard surfaces with a disinfectant solution. Carpets can be shampooed, clothing and bedding laundered if you believe they are contaminated.

### Removing rodent bodies

If you find a dead rodent make sure not to touch it with your bare hands. Wear gloves or use a plastic bag when disposing of a poisoned or trapped rodent. Dispose of the rodent in sealed, plastic bags. Bags can be put in your grey refuse bin. It is not always possible to locate bodies. They can be in inaccessible parts of the building. If left rodent bodies will initially have a strong odour, but this will reduce as the body dries out.

### Food Preparation Surfaces, Crockery & Utensils

It's especially important that you clean any surfaces where you prepare food, such as kitchen worktops, crockery, pots & pan, cutlery and other utensils. You should wash these with hot water and washing-up liquid. You may want wipe worktops, inside of food cupboards and kitchen drawers with a kitchen surface spray.

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### **Contaminated Foods**

It is recommend that foods which have not been protected by packaging or stored in sealed boxes are discarded as they may be contaminated. If there is any sign of damage to packaged foods, such as gnawing to cereal boxes, the pack should be thrown away. As an added precaution, and to prevent unnecessary waste, you should keep food in containers until you are sure that there are no further rodents present.

### **After cleaning up**

Wash rubber gloves with disinfectant or soap and water before removing them. Wash your hands with soap and water after removing gloves. If you see rodents again, fresh droppings appear, or find new food packets become damaged contact Pest Control again.

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