



# City of Westminster

## Pest Information

**FREE PHONE:  
0800 3580514**

### Mice



#### **What do they look like?**

Mice are commonly found in buildings. The fur colour of the house mouse varies between light brown and grey. Body length varies between 60-90mm and the tail can add an additional 100mm. Often the droppings found are black, rod-shaped and 3-6mm long.

#### **Where do they live?**

The house mouse can be found in a wide range of urban and rural buildings, although it may live for part of the year outdoors. Mice live in nests, which are often built inside houses, especially during the winter. Nests are built wherever there is access to a good source of food. Spaces under the floor and lofts are favoured places for nests, which are built out of cloth, wool and paper. Mouse holes are normally 20-30mm in diameter. Mice are mainly active at night and can be heard running about as they search for food. Mice can squeeze through cracks as small as 5mm.

Mice may breed year-round and a female may have 5 to 10 litters per year. Mouse populations can therefore grow rapidly under good conditions, although breeding and survival of young slow markedly when population densities become high. During its daily activities, a mouse normally travels an area averaging 10 to 30 feet in diameter, seldom travelling further than this to obtain food or water. Mice constantly explore and learn about their environment, memorizing the locations of pathways, obstacles, food and water, shelter and other elements in their domain. They quickly detect new objects in their environment, but they do not fear novel objects as do mice

#### **What do they eat?**

Their favorite foods are cereal products, although they will eat almost anything. Most of the damage they do is by gnawing and ripping open packets. They also foul food with urine and droppings. Mice will gnaw their way through wood to get to sources of food.



#### **Why do they need to be controlled?**

They eat and can contaminate all types of food.

They can damage and destroy property

They carry diseases that are hazardous to both humans and animals, such as: typhus, trichinosis, and jaundice (Weils disease).

#### **How can I tell whether my house is infested with mice?**

Signs of a mouse infestation can include the presence of droppings, footprints in damp soil or dust, and burrows in the ground.

Indications of an infestation can include signs of gnawing.

#### **How can I prevent an infestation?**

Householders can assist in preventing infestation by some simple measures:

- remove potential nesting sites by keeping yards and gardens clean and tidy, and by cutting back overgrown areas
- Stored materials should ideally be at least 19 inches off the ground to make access harder and identification of infestation easier. Products should also be kept away from walls
- do not feed wild birds or other animals to excess – you may be feeding mices as well
- Keep your home in good repair so that mices cannot gain access to it. Ensure that the drain inspection covers are in place and are in good repair
- Do not leave household waste where mices can get at it. Food and food waste should be stored in sealed containers, including compost bins
- Having a good housekeeping system for any outdoor pets, e.g. rabbits in hutches or pigeons in lofts. Poor housekeeping can easily result in a mice infestation

#### **How can I get rid of mice?**

Call City of Westminster Council Pest Control Team **Free Phone 0800 3580514**.

#### **Treatment**

Fully trained and qualified council pest control officers will survey the premises; poison bait stations / traps will be placed in the most appropriate and safe locations. You will be issued a **Notice to Occupier** form detailing which poisons have been left in the property; keep this in a safe place for reference for emergency services should the need arise. You may also be given advice on house-keeping which may assist the treatment. Minor proofing may be carried out by the officer; if substantial works are required a **Proofing Advice** form will be emailed to your estate office. This is usually done on the final treatment to aid prevention of a re-infestation. Any follow up appointments will be arranged with you at the end of each visit.

#### **Post Treatment**

We use safer poisons which require multiple feeds before they will kill the mice (typically this can take up to 10 days) and mean mice sightings / activity may occur for a short period after each treatment. Depending on the circumstances most mice infestations take between four to eight weeks to control. Should you find a dead rodent on your premises please call us for collection and disposal.

**Failing to report** a mice infestation is not wise; mice do not disappear of their own accord. If you believe you have a mice infestation in your property, please contact City of Westminster Council Pest Control Team.