

The facts about house mice and how

DIY Top Tip

House mouse facts

House mice are grey or brown rodents with relatively large ears and small eyes. An adult weighs about 1/2 ounce and is about 5 1/2 to 7 1/2 inches long, including the 3-4 inch tail.

In a single year, a female may have 5-10 litters of 5 or 6 young each. Young are born 19-21 days after mating, and they are mature in 6-10 weeks. The life span of a mouse is about 9-12 months.



Recognising mouse infestations

Typical signs of a house mouse problem are:

- Scratching noises in the walls or ceilings as mice scurry around.
- Droppings – mice leave small, dark droppings, particularly along walls or in areas of significant activity such as in cupboards or under sinks.
- Distinctive smell – mice leave a trail that has an ammonia-like smell; this will be particularly strong in more enclosed areas such as under cupboards and in loft spaces.
- Damage – mice have teeth that grow continuously, and they will gnaw on wood, plastic, cables and other hard materials.
- Nests – mice build nests using shredded material such as newspapers and fabrics. These will tend to be in hidden places such as behind fridges, and nests will often contain young mice.

to eradicate them from your home



How to help eradicate mice

Hexagon will attend to lay bait when you report a problem with mice. At the initial visit, the contractor will assess where the mice are coming from and lay the bait in those areas. They will then carry out another visit 2 weeks later to assess whether the mice have eaten the bait and to refill the bait boxes.

At the initial visit, the contractor will advise you on how you can help to eradicate the problem. The Association will not mouse-proof your home by filling holes in – this is your responsibility.

In eradicating mice, the first line of defence is to block up the point at which the mice are entering your home. Mice have soft skeletons and can get through holes the width of a pencil, so it is important to seal any holes to the exterior of the house (for example pipe work for washing machines and dishwashers) and fit bristle strips around doors. These holes should be blocked with wire/steel wool, caulking material and expanding foam, as mice find it difficult to chew through these types of material.

It is important **not** to attract mice with food – mice only need a little food to survive and can make a nest with a small amount of fabric or debris (petfood bowls and debris from bird/small rodent cages attract mice). Crumbs and food particles can also attract mice into your home. Where possible, store food in strong plastic or metal containers, and regularly clean behind fridges, and under cookers and cupboards.

Be very mindful in the kitchen. Kitchens, as well as attics, are the preferred areas for mice. Do not leave any dirty dishes out. You should also wipe the counters and floor every night before going to bed.

Prevention methods

When the contractors attend, they will only put down bait; however, there are other methods that a tenant can purchase from a DIY store to help eradicate mice.

These include:

- Mouse traps.
- Sonic noise-makers, which emit a high-pitched noise that only mice can hear and drives them away naturally.