

## Pest control fact sheet

<p><b>Rats</b></p>		<p>Rats leave little dark brown droppings, about 20mm long. They gnaw on wire, wood and soft metals such as lead and aluminium are no barrier to an active rat. The rat generally stays within 50m of its home but can range to 300m.</p>
<p><b>Mice</b></p>		<p>The house mouse is slim, and grows to a maximum of 25g. They climb very well and can squeeze through gaps just 6mm across. Mice leave little black droppings, smaller than an apple pip. They will gnaw and take small chunks out of any food they can find.</p>
<p><b>Carpet beetle</b></p>		<p>The adult beetle is about 3mm long, oval in shape and the colouring is grey/brown mottled with yellowish white. The larvae are responsible for the damage beetles cause.</p>
<p><b>Bed bug</b></p>		<p>Bed bugs are a small, flat, reddish coloured insect about 6mm in length. They hide in crevices during the day and come out to feed at night. They feed on human blood and will attack pets. Signs of an infestation are bites on the body, small black dots on wallpaper near the bed, and cast skins, which look like hollow Bed Bugs.</p>
<p><b>Cockroach</b></p>		<p>Cockroaches are not fussy about what they eat (including wallpaper, leather and hair) and are often found in groups. They spend much of the day hiding in cracks and crevices. Cockroaches can carry dysentery, gastro-enteritis, typhoid, and germs on their body or droppings.</p>
<p><b>Wasps/ hornets</b></p>		<p>The queen makes a nest by chewing wood or bark, which creates a paper mache-like substance nest. The queen lays eggs which turn into the familiar black and yellow striped wasps and the nest enlarges.</p>
<p><b>Fleas</b></p>		<p>Fleas are brown, around 2mm long, 1mm high and so thin that they look flat. The adult feeds from birds or mammal. Their eggs are oval, greyish white and very smooth (1/4mm). They can only just be seen with the naked eye. Fleas are capable of jumping a vertical height of 30cm.</p>
<p><b>Pharaoh ants</b></p>	<p>Pharaoh ants are usually harder to control than other ants because of their ability to disperse. There may be many</p>	

## Pest control fact sheet

		colonies, which makes it hard to kill them all and populations quickly rebound. Control is difficult and often long term.
<b>Mites</b>		Mites are almost always associated with dry dust and debris in domestic dwellings, although some species also occur in the nests and homes of birds and some animals.
<b>Bees</b>		Bees are one of the most useful garden insects. It is sometimes necessary to destroy bees because they may pose a danger in a particular location, however this will be done as a last resort. The risk from bees in the house or garden is small.
<b>Flies</b>		Flies are a very common pest, which live outside. From a human point of view, flies are quite harmless. They do not breed indoors, they are not thought to carry any diseases, and their presence is not a sign of poor hygiene.
<b>Moles</b>		Moles can be a nuisance and an obvious sign are molehills. They do sometimes come out of the ground, but it is rare for one to be seen. If you do, they are quite small, about 15cm long (6 inches), with smooth velvet like fur, pointed pink snouts with sharp teeth. Their front paws are really big and strong.
<b>Squirrels</b>		Signs of their presence include stripped pine cones, nuts that have been chewed, bark stripped from trees and their droppings which may be round or elongated. Squirrels can cause significant damage both indoors and out.
<b>Moths</b>		The larvae of moths can do a great deal of damage to clothes, carpets and soft furnishings.
<b>Fox</b>		The fox is an opportunist and will eat practically anything. Foxes are protected under wildlife protection. They are often referred to as vermin, but are not categorised as such.
<b>Black ants</b>		Black Ants (also known as Garden Ants) are very common, and are mostly harmless. They can be a nuisance if they come into houses, but are useful garden insects.
<b>Fur beetles</b>		The fur beetle is frequently found indoors. They feed on pollen and fly through open windows to lay eggs in suitable larval feeding sites, such as carpet edges, wardrobes and birds' nests in roof spaces.