

Problems They Cause

Mice are a **public health risk**, as they can **spread nasty diseases** such as Leptospirosis (Weil's disease) spreading it to humans through their urine, droppings and bedding. Mice can contaminate food and food surfaces, transferring the bacteria and dirt they carry on their bodies to everywhere they touch.

Mice can cause **significant damage to property**; due to the fact their teeth never stop growing. Mice continually nibble or gnaw on items to keep their incisors at a constant length. They can gnaw through cables even some metals. Mice damager repairs can result in **large costs**.

Business with mice issues risk **reputational damage** as well as possible loss of earnings, and in some case could incur fines from environmental health agencies.

Commercial Control Methods

- A skilled Vergo technician will identify species and determine areas of infestation.
- The technician will advise on hygiene measures that will be needed to help eliminate the infestation and proofing methods necessary to prevent access to the building or to harbourage areas.
- Traps will be employed at strategic points to manage the current activity levels. A succession of visits might be needed to monitor and reset traps/top up rodenticide (if applicable) .
- On completion of the treatment, the technician will advise on housekeeping measures to help you prevent future infestations.



Pest Biology

There are **two principle species** of mice that invade buildings: the **house mouse**, which is more prevalent in urban areas; and the **wood mouse** that is more common in rural areas. They can both survive without free water to drink so long as there is some moisture in the food. They will eat a wide variety of foods. Wood mice will hoard food whereas house mice search daily.

Mice reach sexual maturity within six weeks of birth, and they **can produce a litter of up to 12 offspring around every 3 weeks**; so an infestation can rapidly escalate out of control.

Key facts

- Mice like to nest in protected areas such as underneath cupboards, in wall cavities and lofts, and in undisturbed stored goods and possessions.
- They are active at night, but they rarely travel more than 20 feet from their nest.
- As they are able to collapse their ribs, mice can squeeze through gaps just 6mm wide.
- They are excellent climbers and can scale relatively smooth walls.

What you can do to help

- Seal up the most common entry points like gaps around pipes, cables and underneath doorways.
- Practise good hygiene ensuring food is not left out overnight to attract rodents.
- Store possessions in sealed containers to minimise the likelihood of mouse infestation.

