



Rats

Help sheet

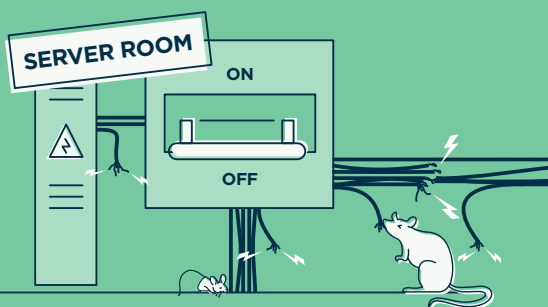
The most common species within the UK is the common or brown rat, which is physically strong, can jump up to 3 metres and squeeze through a gap of less than 25cm.

Rats will seek out any environment that provides food, water, and shelter. They can live in loft spaces, wall cavities and cellar/sub floor areas. They also live in public sewer systems. Rats can spread diseases such as salmonella (a type of food poisoning) and leptospirosis (Weil's disease) which can be life threatening. Rats can breed very quickly, two rats can produce 60 or more young in one year. A young female rat will be ready to reproduce at the age of 3 months.



Did you know...

Rats teeth **never stop growing**. Therefore, they file them on objects by gnawing which can cause serious damage.



POTENTIAL SIGNS THAT RATS MAY BE PRESENT

- ▶ **Sightings** – dead or alive
- ▶ **Droppings** – dark brown cylindrical shaped (like a sausage/banana) around 1cm in length
- ▶ **Damage** – rats gnaw constantly and as a result may cause damage to belongings, structures, pipes, and electric cables etc
- ▶ **Noises** – heard from under floors, behind walls, ceilings voids or in the loft
- ▶ **Smears** – black greasy marks are created by rats running over prominent objects over a long period of time
- ▶ **Burrows** – in soil (5-7 cm diameter) and have a smooth entry
- ▶ **Footprints & Tail Swipes** – captured when they run over a dusty area

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROACTIVELY HELP PREVENT/CONTROL RATS

- ▶ Clean up spilled food right away, wash dishes and cooking utensils soon after use
- ▶ Eliminate rodent food sources by ensuring food is stored off the ground, and kept in thick plastic or metal containers, with sealed lids
- ▶ Keep communal areas free of rubbish and waste
- ▶ Avoid the build-up of refuse and ensure your bin areas are clean with the lids being closed
- ▶ Maintain a strict door policy to keep rats out

At Vergo, we will tailor our solution to meet your needs



If you have an issue with rats,
call **0344 335 0330** or visit **vergo.uk**

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