



BASILDON DISTRICT COUNCIL

How To Get Rid of Rats

Although rarely sighted rats are commonplace in this country and are equally at home in urban and rural environments. They are very active rodents that carry disease harmful to people and can cause damage to property. Any evidence of rats should not be ignored. Rats will chew anything they can, including wood, plastic pipes, cables, paper, putty and plaster.

They are capable of destroying large quantities of our food through which they can transmit harmful infections like Weils Disease also known as Lepto Spiral Jaundice. These diseases can be passed to humans through open wounds after contact with items or water that rats have urinated in or on.

How to tell if you have rats

- Visual sightings, though these are rare especially indoors
- Holes or runs under sheds or outbuildings
- Rat droppings - the size of a baked bean and blackish-grey in colour
- Scurrying noises, especially at night, in the loft space or behind cavity walls, though more often than not these are likely to be caused by mice rather than rats

What to do if you have or suspect rats

Various traps and poisons are available over the counter. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.

OR - Call in the professionals

Basildon Council has a staff of fully qualified experts in pest control who provide a completely free service for domestic premises. We will start treatment within two working days if rats are inside residential properties or five working days if they are outside. Normally two or three visits will be required but we will keep treating until all the rats are gone. We also treat rats on commercial premises but a charge will be made. Please contact us for a price.

How you can guard against rats

Rats are agile creatures that are attracted by food and unhygienic conditions. Here are a few handy tips put together by our experts to help protect you against these unwelcome rodents.

- Make sure you properly dispose of any materials or rubbish which attracts rats
- Dispose of stale or rotten food quickly and securely
- After feeding pets or livestock remove any surplus immediately
- Keep food in appropriate containers and store on shelves or in cupboards
- Rats love bird food so use a bird table or feeder
- Fill in all gaps around pipes and cables that are more than 10mm in diameter
- Fix kick plates to all outside doors

For more details Tel. 01268 294280 or email ehs@basildon.gov.uk