

## PEST CONTROL SERVICE

### Pest Information Leaflet No. 15

## MICE



### Description

There are two types of mice, which become pests:

- The House Mouse
- The Field Mouse

The house mouse is the most common species found in the UK. The adult mouse may weigh up to 50g, usually has brown or grey fur on its back and is light grey underneath. The ears are fairly large in relation to its body and the feet are small. The tail is the same length as the head and body but is much thinner than the tail of a young rat.

### Biology and Habitat

The field mouse is more common on agricultural land and considered a pest when it takes up residence indoors.

The house mouse is a more common domestic pest which will nest in partitions, floors and behind wall boarding, its is normally found in buildings where it finds harbourage, warmth, food and nesting material. Mice are most active at night and will range over a small area if food is plentiful. They are less dependent on water and will normally obtain sufficient moisture from food.

The life expectancy of mice is about one year although they may live longer in captivity. Females live slightly longer than males. Mice have their first litter at about 2 months of age,

the litter size ranges from 2–13 with an average of 6.

### Importance

Mice, like rats are a hazard to health. They are responsible for the spread of diseases, some of which may be fatal to man. They contaminate foodstuffs with hair, urine and droppings, this food must then be disposed of. They also cause damage to property as they search for nesting material and gnaw on woodwork, cables, wires and pipes, often with dangerous consequences.

### Control

The best method of control is to prevent an infestation occurring to begin with:

**Limit Access** – Mice may only need a gap the diameter of a pencil piece to gain access. The property should therefore be rodent-proofed.

**Proofing of Buildings** - Fill any holes around pipes and cables where services (gas, water, electricity) enter the house using cement or other external filling compound. Fill any holes around overflows, sink waste pipe, soil pipes and chimneys etc. Fill in gaps/holes where roof tiles meet the soffit boards. Used crimped wire mesh, then fill in with cement or other filling compound.

Seal outside window and doorframes with mastic. Seal inside window and doorframes with general purpose household sealer.

Cover air vents with bricks and fine zinc gauze, fixed securely.

**Restrict Harborage** - Mice will set up home in sites which are left undisturbed and where they have access to food.

**Limit Food Supply** – Ensure food is not stored for an excessive amount of time, spills are cleaned up and regular cleaning is carried out. Another source of food is pet food – always remove any not eaten. Refuse areas should be cleaned and containers should have tight fitting lids.

### **Safety**

Once infestation occurs you will normally need professional help controlling colonies of mice.

### **Pest Control Service**

Stroud District Councils Pest Control Service can provide a professional service for the treatment of rodents and some insect pests. For further details and current charges please telephone Stroud 754919 or write to:

Pest Control Service  
Environmental Health Service  
Stroud District Council  
Ebley Mill, Westward Road  
Stroud, Glos. GL5 4UB

e-mail:- [environmental.health@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.health@stroud.gov.uk)

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- 10 Bats
- 11 Slugs and Snails
- 12 Badgers
- 13 Foxes
- 14 Rats
- 15 Mice