

Checklist for Anti-rodent Work
(Property Management Companies and Government Departments)

Inspection items \ Inspection date									
1. All flowerbeds and pavements have been inspected for rodent infestation.									
2. The shrubs have been trimmed for easier detection of rodent infestation.									
3. Articles accumulated have been removed.									
4. The household refuse has been cleared from the premises at least once a day.									
5. The refuse bags have been tied up before disposal of in a refuse collection box with cover.									
6. The used dustbins have been cleansed.									
7. The refuse storage chamber has been properly maintained and cleansed.									
8. The refuse in the communal areas has been cleared.									
9. Storerooms/plant rooms have been properly cleansed and free of accumulated articles.									
10. Gratings with apertures not more than 6 mm or barbed wire balls have been installed/plugged at the openings of pipes.									
11. All defective gratings have been replaced.									
12. All the openings left in the walls, floors or roofs after installation of pipes, wires or split-type air conditioners have been properly sealed using cement or metal plates.									
13. All defective pavements and walls have been repaired.									
14. The threshold clearance of doors has been lowered to not more than 6 mm and metal kicking plates of at least 30 cm high have been affixed to the lower edges of doors and door frames.									
15. Strong wire meshes with apertures not larger than 6 mm have been installed to screen exhaust fans and ventilation louvers.									
16. Rat guards have been installed around the pipes on external walls.									
17. Refuse collection bins with a well-fitted cover have been placed on each floor to collect household refuse.									
Inspected by:									
Signature:									

Note:

- To put a "✓" in the box to indicate that the condition is satisfactory.
- To put a "✗" in the box to indicate that irregularity is detected and rectifying action should be taken immediately. After rectifying work has been taken, please confirm by countersigning on the corresponding box.

ENQUIRIES

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Hotline : 2868 0000

Central / Western

10th Floor, Sheung Wan Municipal Services Building,
345 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong
Tel : 2545 0506

Wan Chai

7th Floor, Lockhart Road Municipal Services Building,
225 Hennessy Road,
Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Tel : 2507 3364

Eastern

3rd Floor, Quarry Bay Municipal Services Building,
38 Quarry Bay Street, Hong Kong
Tel : 2563 4340

Southern

4th Floor, Aberdeen Municipal Services Building,
203 Aberdeen Main Road, Hong Kong
Tel : 2552 8406

Kwun Tong

Level 7, Shui Wo Street Municipal Services Building,
9 Shui Wo Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon
Tel : 3102 7388

Wong Tai Sin

3rd Floor, Tai Shing Street Market Building,
121 Choi Hung Road, Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon
Tel : 2328 6531

Kowloon City

3rd & 4th Floors, To Kwa Wan Market & Government Offices,
165 Ma Tau Wai Road, Kowloon
Tel : 2711 2493

Yau Tsim

3rd & 4th Floors, Kwun Chung Municipal Services Building,
17 Bowring Street, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon
Tel : 2302 1299

Mong Kok

6th & 7th Floors, Fa Yuen Street Municipal Services Building,
123A Fa Yuen Street, Mong Kok, Kowloon
Tel : 2395 2727

Sham Shui Po

8th-10th Floors, Un Chau Street Municipal Services Building,
59-63 Un Chau Street,
Sham Shui Po, Kowloon
Tel : 2748 6959

Islands

6th & 25th Floors, Harbour Building,
38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong
Tel : 2852 3215

Kwai Tsing

9th Floor, Kwai Hing Government Offices Building,
166-174 Hing Fong Road, Kwai Chung, N.T.
Tel : 2420 9204

Tsuen Wan

3rd Floor, Yeung Uk Road Municipal Services Building,
45 Yeung Uk Road, Tsuen Wan, N.T.
Tel : 2212 9701

Tuen Mun

1st & 3rd Floors, Tuen Mun Government Offices Building,
1 Tuen Hi Road, Tuen Mun, N.T.
Tel : 2146 8642

Yuen Long

2nd-5th Floors, Yuen Long Government Offices,
2 Kiu Lok Square, Yuen Long, N.T.
Tel : 2475 3433

North

4th Floor, Shek Wu Hui Municipal Services Building,
13 Chi Cheong Road, Sheung Shui, N.T.
Tel : 2679 2812

Tai Po

3rd Floor, Tai Po Complex,
8 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po, N.T.
Tel : 3183 9119

Sai Kung

8/F, Sai Kung Tseung Kwan O Government Complex,
38 Pui Shing Road, Tseung Kwan O, Sai Kung, N.T.
Tel : 3740 5100

Sha Tin

Level 12, Tower 1, Grand Central Plaza,
138 Sha Tin Rural Committee Road,
Sha Tin, N.T.
Tel : 2634 0136

Pest Control Advisory Section

6/F, Yung Fung Shee Memorial Centre,
79 Cha Kwo Ling Road, Lam Tin, Kowloon
Tel : 3188 2064

Prevent Disease
Eliminate Rodent Nuisance

Residential Management Companies



Rodent Problems in Residential Areas

In residential premises, improper treatment of household refuse provides ample food sources for rodents, while communal areas such as the refuse rooms, storerooms, the void under staircases, the flowerbeds and retaining walls are potential rodent harbourages. If there are no regular inspections and rodent-proofing measures, the premises and their surroundings are highly susceptible to rodent infestation.

Types and Characteristics of Rodents

Rodents are social animals living in family groups or colonies. They have good senses of smell, touch and hearing, and are good at swimming and climbing. A rodent can locate itself and direct movement by its strong memory. Their reproductive rate is very high: an adult female rodent can give birth to about 50 young rodents in a year. Common types of rodents include *Rattus norvegicus* (sewer rat), *Rattus rattus* (roof rat) and *Mus musculus* (house mouse).

Hazards caused by Rodents

1. Transmission of Diseases

The major problem caused by rodents is public health hazards. Rodents can directly or indirectly transmit to humans diseases such as plague, scrub typhus, urban typhus, hantavirus infection and leptospirosis. Rodents, living in dirty environment, are prone to carry pathogens. Ingestion of food and water contaminated by rodents may cause food poisoning and other infectious diseases.

2. Loss of Property

Rodents cause financial loss by gnawing building fittings and household furniture. They may gnaw and damage telephone wires and computer cables, and even bite electric wires or cables, causing fire due to short-circuiting.

3. Biting People

Rodents may bite people of low mobility, such as babies, the aged, the invalid, the disabled or people who are asleep.

Signs of Rodent Infestation

Apart from spotting live rodents around the premises, other signs of rodent infestation include rodent droppings, rat holes, runways, gnawing marks, footmarks and smears.

Rodent-Proofing Measures in Residential Premises

To prevent rodent infestation, management companies should maintain the premises in good environmental hygiene condition by:

- inspecting all flowerbeds and pavements regularly for rodent infestation;
- setting up a zone paved with concrete or small boulders as far as possible in immediate surrounding of building blocks;
- trimming surrounding bushland, long-grass fields and vegetation in flowerbeds regularly for easier detection of rodent infestation;
- avoiding any accumulation of articles;
- clearing the household refuse from the premises at least once a day;
- tying up the refuse bags before disposal of in a refuse collection box with cover;
- cleansing the used dustbins daily;
- clearing or flushing drains, gutters, sewers and septic tanks regularly
- clearing the refuse and articles in the communal areas as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, the following rodent-proofing measures should be adopted:

1. Install gratings with apertures not more than 6 mm or plug barbed wire balls at the openings of pipes. Any defective gratings must be replaced as soon as possible.
2. Use cement or metal plates to properly seal all the openings left in the walls, floors or roofs after the installation of pipes, wires or split-type air conditioners.
3. Repair all defective pavements and walls with cement.
4. Lower the threshold clearance of doors to not more than 6 mm and affix metal kicking plates of at least 30 cm high to the lower edges of doors and door frames.
5. Install strong wire meshes with apertures not larger than 6 mm to screen exhaust fans and ventilation louvers.
6. Install rat guards around the pipes on external walls.

7. Place a refuse collection bin with a well-fitted cover on each floor to collect household refuse.
8. Appoint a pest control company to disinfest the premises if there is rodent infestation. Do not try to catch rodents yourselves to avoid contracting rodent-borne diseases.

Relevant Legislation

Under the amended section 47 of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Chapter 132, Laws of Hong Kong), owner, occupier, owners' corporation or property management company of a premises has the responsibility to ensure that the premises is free from infestation of vermin.

If it appears to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) that a particular premises is infested with vermin, the FEHD may serve a "Notice of Elimination of Vermin" to the owner or occupier of the premises, requiring them to take action to destroy and remove the vermin within a specified period. As for dealing with vermin infestation in the common parts of building, the FEHD may serve a "Notice of Elimination of Vermin" to the owners' corporation or property management company responsible for managing the common parts to ensure that the problem is addressed in a timely manner. Failure to comply with the notice is an offence. Upon conviction, the maximum penalty is a fine of \$25,000, plus a daily fine of \$450.

If the FEHD believes that immediate intervention is necessary due to the severity of the vermin infestation, it may take reasonable steps to destroy or remove the vermin from the premises, even without serving a "Notice of Elimination of Vermin", and may subsequently recover the costs incurred from the vermin elimination work.

Additionally, if the FEHD believes that a particular premises is infested with vermin, it may place any equipment used for conducting tests or assessing vermin proliferation (such as traps, bait containers, baits, etc.). Interference with such equipment is an offence. Upon conviction, the maximum penalty is a fine of \$5,000.

Use the "Checklist for Anti-rodent Work (Property Management Companies and Government Departments)" overleaf to facilitate record of essential rodent prevention and control work.