

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

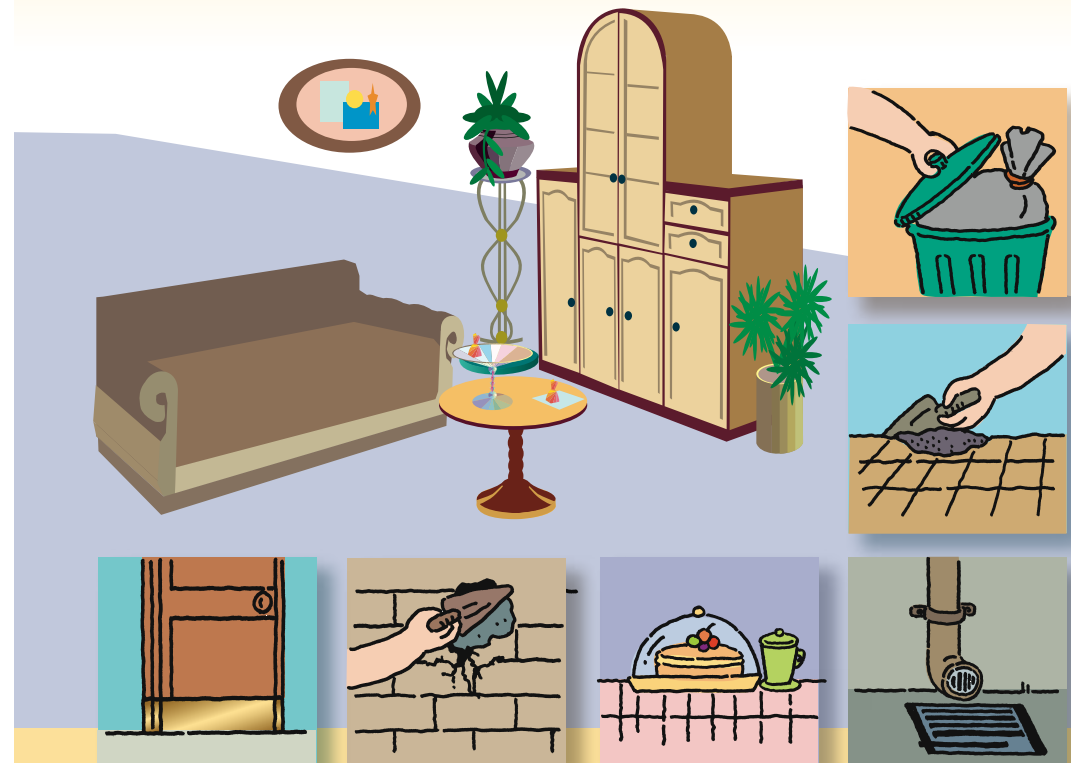
Level 12, Tower 1, Grand Central Plaza,
138 Sha Tin Rural Committee Road,
Sha Tin, N.T.
Tel : 2634 0136

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

Household setting



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 rats 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, holes, runways, gnawing marks, footmarks and smears.

Measures to Prevent and Control Rodent Infestation

1. Basic Principles

a) Eliminate Food Sources for Rodents

- Keep your home and the surrounding areas clean, especially the refuse rooms and stairways.
- Store food and handle pet food properly so that they will not become food for rodents.
- Store all refuse and food remnants in dustbins with well-fitted covers. Dustbins must be emptied at least once a day.
- Refuse bags should be tied up to prevent spillage, and then disposed of properly in refuse collection chambers with well-fitted covers.

b) Eliminate Rodent Harbourage

- Clear away the refuse and disused articles at homes and in the communal areas of a building.
- Regularly clear up the void underneath or behind bulky furniture, and inspect any concealed places like false ceilings, air ducts and wire ducts.

- Seal any holes or crevices in the ceilings, walls or floors.
- Keep flowerbeds clean and tidy without accumulation of refuse and articles.

c) Stop Rodents from Entering Premises

- Fix gratings with apertures not more than 6 mm to all drain outlets. Replace them if they are damaged.
- Use metal plates or cement to seal all the openings left in the external walls, floors and roofs after the installation of pipes, wires or split-type air conditioners.
- Render all ventilation openings rodent-proof by installing strong wire meshes with apertures not greater than 6 mm or other rodent-proofing devices.
- Affix metal plates of at least 30 cm high to the lower parts of doors and door frames to keep rodents away. Threshold clearance should not exceed 6 mm to prevent rodents from entering the premises.

2. Supplementary Measures

a) Trapping

- Use baited trapping devices (e.g. cages) at the places frequently visited by rodents.

b) Poisoning

- Use rodenticides with caution. Strictly follow the application instructions to avoid harming people and other animals.

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.