

Common Defects in the Context of Rodent Prevention and Control

There are several commonly found defects which render premises susceptible to rodent infestation and intrusion. Early detection and rectification of the defects could effectively stop rodents from invading the premises and prevent rodent infestation. The following are the commonly found essential defects which deserve early attention of the owner or occupier of the premises.

Broken window

Rodents can gain access into houses through damaged structures such as broken windows.



Fig 5.1 Broken windows provided rodents with passage to infest houses.



Threshold clearance larger than 6mm

Rodent can gain access into houses through the large threshold clearance of doors or partitions. The threshold clearance greater than 6mm would allow rodents to pass through the doors or partitions.



Fig 5.2 Threshold clearance of door larger than 6mm allowing rodent passage.

Damaged wooden door and door frame

Rodents have the habit of gnawing to control the growth of their teeth. The hardness of the wood for making door and door frame usually cannot resist gnawing by rodents.



Fig 5.3 Damaged wooden door

Ventilation louvers

The spaces between louvers usually allow free passage of rodents. Unscreened ventilation louvers on doors or wall provide points of entry for rodents into houses.



Fig 5.4 Ventilation louvers provide entry points for rodents.

Dense vegetation

Dense vegetation at flowerbeds, planters and near houses forms shelters for rodents. The vegetation also makes clearing of refuse including food remnants in the structure incomplete leaving food supply to the rodents. Besides, detection of rat burrow in the flowerbeds and plants with dense vegetation is difficult.



Fig 5.5 Dense vegetation at flowerbed



Fig 5.6 Dense vegetation near house



Cracks and crevices on ground/ other structures

Cracks and crevices on ground or other structures provide rodents with favourable shelters instantly. Rodents may use the crack or crevice as the starting point for building their extensive harbouraging tunnels.



Fig 5.7 Cracks and crevices found between rocks of planter

Improper handling of refuse

Scattering and improper handling of refuse which always contain food for rodents provides ample and handy food sources for supporting the living of rodents and even the proliferation of rodents.



Fig 5.8 (Left) & Fig 5.9 (Right) Improper handling of refuses

Pet food

Rodents also consume pet food. Pet food left behind after feeding of pet also provides rodents with food sources. Rodent's excreta may contaminate the pet food and its container if they have been contacted by rodents.

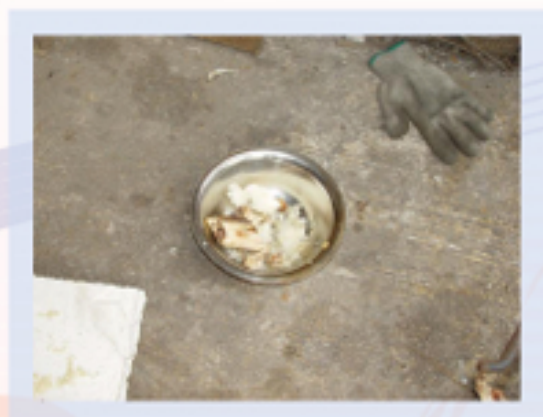


Fig 5.10 Pet food around premises

Accumulation of articles

Accumulation of articles unattended around premises provides rodent with ideal harbouring places.



Fig 5.11 (Left) & fig 5.12 (Right) Accumulated articles