

Sound of rodent

Rodents produce sound of relatively high pitch especially in fighting and scare.

Smell of rodent

Rodents have characteristic pungent smell. The smell is stronger when the infestation is heavy. The dead body of rodent also gives strong offensive smell in its course of decomposition.

Urine stain

Spots of urine stain are left by rodents along their runways and sites of activities. The spots fluoresce under ultraviolet light.

Treatment

After getting information on the rodent infestation from thorough inspection, suitable treatment methods can be selected and strategic rodent control programme can be formulated. Comprehensive rodent control programme can be achieved by environmental control, implementation of rodent proofing measures and direct rodent control (such as trapping and rodenticide treatment). Relying on a single method of treatment may provide fast but short term rodent control or take a long time to achieve satisfactory results. Suitable methods should be used in the control programme for long term control of rodent infestations within a reasonable period of time after starting the programme and maintaining the area rodent-free.

Environmental Control

Presence of food sources and harbouraging places are major elements that render a premises susceptible to rodent infestations. Elimination of food sources and harbouraging places render an area unattractive to rodents. The followings are environmental control measures against rodent infestations:

- Avoid accumulation of articles (such as disused furniture and construction materials) for extended period of time. If accumulation of articles is unavoidable, the articles should be relocated or rearranged regularly (at least quarterly) to discourage rodent harbouraging;
- Trim the vegetation in flowerbeds and planters regularly to make detection of rat burrows easier;
- Store food in the refrigerator or containers with tight fit cover;
- Dispose of refuse in rodent proofed refuse bin with tight fit cover; and



Fig.6.12 Refuse should be stored in rodent proofed refuse bins.

- Remove the food remnants or water for feeding pet animals daily.



Rodent Proofing Measures

Implementation of sound rodent proofing measures aims at protecting the place from rodent infestation, limiting the area of activity of rodents intruded into the place enhancing the rodent disinfestations and reducing the chance of re-infestation.

Rodent proofing measures are designated for prevention of gnawing, moving, climbing and burrow digging behaviour of rodents. Metal, cement and wire mesh are ideal rodent proofing materials. Relatively soft materials such as wood and plastics to rodents can be protected by installation of metal plates. For crevices larger than 6mm could be installed with wire mesh of aperture not larger than 6mm or filled with cement or other suitable materials.

Threshold clearance

The threshold clearance of door and partition can be lowered to 6mm by installation of metal plate or slab to avoid rodent intrusion. If installation of metal kicking plate was not possible due to uneven ground, installation of door slab on the floor is recommended. However, the distance between the door slab and the door should be less than 6mm.



Fig. 6.13 (Left) Threshold clearance of door larger than 6mm allowing rodent passage.



Fig. 6.14 (Right) Lowering of threshold clearance by installation of kicking plate on door.

Wooden door and door frame

Installation of metal kicking plate (Fig. 6.14) of height not less than 30 cm at the lower edge of door and door frame could prevent rodent from gnawing.



Fig.6.15 Wooden door gnawed by rodents

Sliding door

Install metal plate between the sliding door and the wall can stop rodent from intruding from the gap.

Ventilation louvers

The ventilation louver can be installed with wire mesh of s.w.g. 24 and aperture not larger than 6mm. Particular attention should be paid to the edge of the wire mesh to ensure the mesh is properly sealed to the ventilation louver.



Fig. 6.16 (Left) & Fig.6.17 (Right): Ventilation louver installed with wire mesh.

Pipes and cables running along walls

Rodents can climb up pipes and along cables to enter premises. Installation of rat guard, in the form of an inverted funnel, metal plate or metal ring, can prevent rodents from climbing up/along pipes and cables.

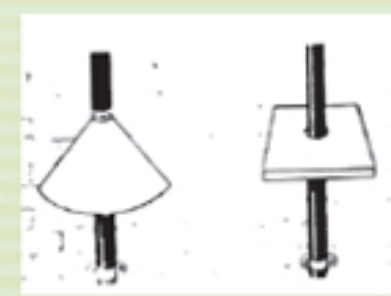


Figure 6.18 Pipes installed with rat guard.