

# Rat Information Sheet

PCD38 - April 2011



## Introduction

The brown rat is a destructive pest that lives in drains and sewers and other insanitary places and carries disease. Rats are very adaptable and will feed from discarded fast food, household waste that has not been properly disposed of and food left out for birds. They often nest in gardens under sheds, in dry stone walls and under paving slabs, taking advantage of a ready supply of food. They are usually more active at night.

## Recognising Rat Infestations

Clean and well maintained areas are less likely to attract rats. Signs to look for rat presence are:

- Gnawed material
- Smears or grease marks
- Footprints and runs
- Holes
- Droppings
- Dead carcasses

## What Can I do if I See Rats?

If you see rats or persistent evidence of them one of our Pest Control team can give you advice or provide treatment at a reasonable cost, which involves safe baiting. If the problem is related to defective public sewers we can request Yorkshire Water to bait them. If rats are nesting in a private garden it is usually the home-owners responsibility to arrange for treatment. You can treat for rats yourself and bait can be purchased from DIY stores, garden centres and some supermarkets. When the rat problem is cured, the bait should be removed.

**Insecticides and pesticides are potentially dangerous and should be stored away from children and pets. Always read the label and follow manufacturer's instructions.**



**Further Information** Kirklees Environmental Protection, Tel: 01484 226891  
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