

What the Environmental Protection Team at Bath and North East Somerset Council can do?

If a complaint is received by Environmental Protection team, advising that there is an infestation is present at your household, an officer may visit you to inspect your premises.

Bath and North East Somerset Council has specific legal powers within the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, to take steps to ensure that owners and occupiers of land keep their land free from large numbers of rats and mice. The legislation provides the Council with powers to require the owner or occupier of land infested by rats or mice to take any steps that are deemed to be necessary to deal with the infestation.

The Environmental Protection team would seek your co-operation if a complaint has been made against you. Undertaking preventative measures outlined in this leaflet will help.

For more information please contact the Environmental Protection Team on: **01225 477551**, or email **Environmental_Protection@bathnes.gov.uk** or visit the **website www.bathnes.gov.uk**



Bath & North East Somerset Council Offices Opening Hours

Bath

Lewis House
Manvers Street
Bath
BA1 1JG

One Stop Shop Opening hours:

Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm;
Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

Keynsham Civic Centre

Market Walk,
Keynsham.
BS31 1FS

One Stop Shop Opening Hours:

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.30am to 5pm;
Tuesday 8.30am to 6pm;
Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm;
Saturday 9am to 4.30pm

Midsomer Norton

The Hollies,
Midsomer Norton
BA3 2DP

One Stop Shop Opening Hours:

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.30am to 5pm;
Tuesday 9.30am to 5pm;
Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

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Vermin Advisory Leaflet

Environmental Protection

Introduction

Rats and mice are known to carry numerous diseases. The bacteria are excreted in their urine and are passed on when humans come into contact with contaminated surfaces/materials.

This leaflet is to provide advice on preventative measures to discourage vermin.

How do I identify an infestation of rats?

There are some signs to look for when checking for rats, the main ones being:

- Holes in material (can often have teeth marks around the outside)
- Rat droppings
- Damaged materials (teeth marks or holes can be an indication)
- Runs – rats often use the same routes, and leave trails or footprints/tail marks
- Smears on walls – shows signs of a well-used route



What else should I know?

- Rats will invade buildings in search of food and shelter.
- They return to their nests to die and if these nests are in warm areas of houses and buildings an offensive odour may become apparent which can last up to 14 days.

What can I do?

If you believe there is an infestation at your property, you can contact pest control service at Bath and North East Somerset Council on **01225 396007**. Please note that there is a charge for a pest control treatment.

Preventative measures

Vermin may be discouraged and infestations prevented by improving hygiene to make sites less attractive, and by proofing buildings and other structures against access. This should include removing any access to food, by ensuring rubbish is adequately protected and stored, and any spillages are immediately removed and the area cleansed.

It is important to remove rubbish and disused fixtures or equipment that may provide harbourage. Vegetation should be controlled around buildings and materials should not be allowed to accumulate in these areas.

You may wish to consider the following to make your property less appealing to vermin:

- Remove potential nesting sites by keeping your garden clean and tidy, cut back overgrown areas
- Be mindful that garden decking areas can be used as harbourage for vermin, ensure access holes are blocked as much as possible.
- Remove food sources by clearing up any windfall fruit as soon as you are able to.



- Do not put out excessive amounts of food for birds. Use a special bird feeder and regularly sweep up any food that spills onto the ground
- Keep rubbish in proper containers with lids on until the day of the collection.
- Place compost bins over galvanized steel mesh and ensure that the lid is tightly fitted
- Keep your home in good repair, blocking holes in windows and doors, rats only need a gap of 15mm to gain entry
- Ensure that drain inspection covers are in place and are in good repair. Baffles can be fitted to rainwater down pipes and cables.

