

Mice

The commonest species found indoors is the House Mouse (*Mus Domesticus*). Other species found occasionally are the Wood Mouse (*Apodemus Sylvaticus*) and the Yellow necked Wood Mouse (*Apodemus Flaviocollis*).

The House Mouse is the smallest species, with adults measuring up to 9 cm and with a tail of about 7cm. Adult mice weigh an average of 15-20gms, just over ½ ounce. Normal colour is dark grey. Their droppings are about the size of a grain of rice.

Life Cycle

Mice are sexually mature at about 10 weeks and the female can give birth to an average litter of 5-6 after 17-20 days. The young are weaned at 3 weeks. A female will normally have up to 10 litters per year.

House Mice can be found almost anywhere, except very wet conditions. They are exceptionally good climbers, and have very erratic habits, often trying different foods, even ginger and chillies.

Problems

Not only do mice transmit diseases such as *Salmonella* and Murine Typhus, but parasites they carry include ringworm, tapeworms and fleas.

Because of their destructive habit of chewing, they cause great damage to stored foodstuffs, which they also contaminate with their droppings and urine.

Apart from sightings and the presence of droppings, mice can also often be detected by the musty smell from their urine.

Control

To help prevent mice from infesting your premises, it is advisable to block any possible entrances. They are able to squeeze through gaps as small as 5mm, so defective airbricks should be repaired and gaps around pipework should be filled. Foodstuffs should be stored to prevent mice from getting to them, particularly if they are stored in an outbuilding or garage.

Treatment with traps can sometimes be effective, but there is a legal requirement to inspect all traps daily.

More practical is to use poison bait. However, poison bait containing either Warfarin or Alphachloralose is not effective against House Mice. Due to their behaviour, several baits should be laid in areas where mice have been sighted. Caution should be taken to ensure that all baits and traps are laid where other animals and children cannot access them. Always read the instructions on the container, and keep a record of where and how many baits you have laid.

Should you have an infestation of mice in your premises then TRDC is able to offer a pest control service to deal with them.