

Rats are quite common in both rural and urban areas, but having one move in can be like having your own personal horror movie, live and at home.

A rat colony will often start with a single pregnant female, and unless there are obvious signs of damage, such as torn packages or droppings, the infestation may not be noticed in the early stages. Except when there are a lot of rats, or food is scarce, they will only come out at night, and daylight sightings are unlikely.

Pregnancy lasts about 21 days, and a single female can have a litter of about 6 young. These can feed themselves after 3 weeks, and reproduce when about 8 - 12 weeks old. Mortality of the young is high, but even so, a rat infestation can grow quickly

As the number of rats increases, signs of damage become obvious. There is damage to food containers and cartons as rats gnaw at them, droppings (black, about the size of a peanut) become noticeable, and a rat running across the attic in the quiet of night can sound as if it is wearing boots.

Getting rid of rats is a job for the expert. Rat traps and cats will only remove some rats without eradicating the infestation and rats are resistant to some of the older poisons on sale to the public. A pest control operator can choose the more effective poisons which are only on sale to trained users, and can vary the way the bait is laid to take advantage of the rat's natural habits. Rats are suspicious of new objects or food, and some rats will dominate others and grab the best food. Bottom rat in the social order is not a happy location !

Eradication of your infestation starts with a thorough survey to check the size of the problem. Poison will then be laid in the best locations, and may be supplemented with traps. Rats should start to die within

a week, and if the infestation is a small one control will be fairly quick. In a larger infestation, it may take a while until the more timid rats are able to feed freely and eat enough bait to be killed. Most of the poisons used require the rat to feed for several days. This makes them safer to use around houses, as one dose does not kill, but it is important that the rats should have little other food than the poison bait. The pest control operator will explain how you can help by removing other sources of food.

Most rats will die underground and out of sight. If a rat dies under the floor or behind fitted furniture there may be a smell. This can be unpleasant, but if it is not possible to get at the body to remove it, the smell can be masked with an air freshener, and it will go away in about two weeks. If you find a dead rat leave it alone and our pest control operator will remove it on the next visit. If you must move the body, wear gloves, and bury the body in the garden. It is not recommended to put the body in the waste bin, but if you have no other choice, put the dead rat in a plastic bag, and tie the bag before putting in bin



**SDK Environmental Ltd**  
**Accounts and Admin Office**  
**Edginswell Lane**  
**Torquay TQ2 7JF**

**Phone 0845 757 3268**  
**Fax 0870 240 0450**

## SAFETY INFORMATION - RAT POISON

The rodenticides used by our pest control operator are listed on the Treatment Record Sheet (Job Card). The only important risk for any of these rodenticides is accidental ingestion by children or pet animals. All rodenticides incorporate a bitter taste agent and a warning dye which may cause blue/green staining around the mouth

**IN CASE OF ACCIDENTAL INGESTION, GO AT ONCE TO YOUR NEAREST HOSPITAL ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY UNIT, AND TAKE THIS LEAFLET AND THE JOB CARD WITH YOU. IF POISON IS EATEN BY A PET ANIMAL SEEK IMMEDIATE VETERINARY ADVICE**

<b>RODENTICIDE TRADE NAME</b>	<b>ACTIVE INGREDIENT</b>
Neosorex Bait Blocks	0.005% Difenacoum in a wax block
Neosorex Bait	0.005% Difenacoum in a cut wheat bait
Ratak Wax Blocks	0.005% Difenacoum in a wax block
Brodifacoum Bait	0.002% Brodifacoum in a cut wheat bait
Brodifacoum Wax Blocks	0.002% Brodifacoum in a wax block
Contra Blox	0.005% Bromadiolone in a green/blue colour block
Contra Pellets	0.005% Bromadiolone in green/blue colour pellets
Deadline	0.005% Bromadiolone in a whole grain base
Deadline Contact Dust	0.15% Bromadiolone in a blue dust
<b>FIRST AID TREATMENT</b>	
SKIN CONTACT	Wash off with soap and water
EYE CONTACT	Wash with copious amounts of water
INGESTION	DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING. WASH MOUTH OUT WITH WATER. SEEK URGENT MEDICAL ADVICE

### ADVICE TO DOCTOR

All of the above rodenticides are anti-coagulants. In case of suspected poisoning, determine prothrombin times not less than 18 hours after consumption. If elevated administer vitamin K1 and continue until prothrombin times normalise. Continue determination of prothrombin times for 3 days after withdrawal of treatment and resume treatment if elevation occurs in that time.

FOR FULL INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR NEAREST POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE OR REFER TO THE LEAFLET "The Treatment of Anticoagulant Rodenticide Poisoning "