

Problems They Cause

Rats can cause **significant damage to property**; this is due to the fact that Rats' teeth never stop growing. Rats constantly gnaw on items to keep their incisors in check.

Rats mark their territory and communicate by urinating everywhere they go, representing a significant **public health risk**. They can carry many **nasty diseases**, which can spread to humans, normally through rats' urine or body coming into contact with food preparation areas.

Business with rat issues risk **reputational damage** as well as possible loss of earnings, and in some case could incur fines from environmental health agencies.

Control needs to be implemented as soon as rats invade your premises, as the costs of prolonged infestation can escalate rapidly.

Commercial Control Methods

- A skilled Vergo technician will identify species and determine areas of infestation.
- The technician will advise on hygiene measures that will be needed to help eliminate the infestation and proofing methods necessary to prevent access to the building or to harbourage areas.
- Traps and/or rodenticide will be employed at strategic points to manage the current activity levels. A succession of visits might be needed to monitor and reset traps/top up rodenticide.
- On completion of the treatment, the technician will advise on housekeeping measures to help you prevent future infestations.



Pest Biology

The brown rat typically has brownish fur on its back and is grey underneath. Brown rats are bulky, with a pointed nose, large ears and a thick scaly tail that measures about three quarters as long again as their head and body. The adults weigh 300-500g.

They can produce frequent large litters, so have a big reproductive potential – **one pair of rats can lead to 500 offspring within a year** in favourable conditions.

They typically live in sewers or in burrows underground, but they will exploit any situation that provides food, water and shelter, including sewers, farms, food premises, gardens, houses etc. These animals are extremely successful, and virtually ubiquitous pests the world over.

Characteristics

Brown rats belong to the rodent order – animals with **constantly growing teeth**. They have a need to gnaw regularly in order to file the teeth down. This keeps them extremely sharp. In addition rats have very powerful jaws, so they are able to chew their way through soft metals, timber and even some concrete.

Brown rats live in an opportunistic way allowing them to adapt to every situation they find themselves in. They are **excellent at climbing, jumping and swimming and are very fast runners**. These pests are nocturnal, so sometimes they are not spotted until their population is out of hand.

What you can do to help

Rats only need a gap of 12mm to gain entry to your premises.

- Maintain good housekeeping.
- Clear any debris and remove potential nesting sites by keeping vegetation cut back and your bin area clean and tidy. Avoid feeding wild birds as you may be encouraging rats.
- Seal any possible access areas.

