

Dealing with Rats

in your area

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RATS ARE A PROBLEM ACROSS MILTON KEYNES

In this leaflet are some simple tips on how to reduce the risk of rats in your garden and surrounding area.

If rats are found on your premises there could be a number of simple ways to make sure that there is nothing to attract them back.

Rats look for:-

Food

Water

Shelter



Follow these guidelines to make your property unattractive to rodents.

Also, remember that even if you are taking steps to reduce the problem, others may not be so vigilant. Take the opportunity to talk to your neighbours about removing the problem.



Household Waste

If you have a green wheelie bin or kitchen caddy make sure that it is always used for food waste. Rats will tear into black sacks if they smell food.

If you want to find out how to get a free bin, see Page 2.

Please do not leave black bags outside except on collection day. If black bags are left out for days this can encourage rats to burrow in them in search of anything edible.



Feeding Wild Birds

If you are aware of an infestation close by it is recommended that you stop feeding the birds. As can be seen, rats can be very resourceful in their search for food.

If you are using bird feeders, please use feeders that are off the ground and hang them away from walls, fences or plants. Ensure that you clear away any discarded food under the feeder at dusk.



Outdoor Pets

If you keep or feed pets outside, you will need to take extra care to stop rats accessing the food. Spilt or left animal food, droppings and bedding material will attract vermin. Hutches need to be proofed against rats accessing animal food. Check yours and speak to your neighbours if necessary.

Gardens and Sheds

Overgrown, untidy gardens which may hold accumulated refuse, stockpiles of materials or even plain old junk can easily become infested, especially if there is a local food source.

These examples may seem extreme, but a tidy garden will avoid many problems including rats.

If you have any bulky items you wish to remove you can take them to the household waste recycling centre at Bleak Hall or contact the Waste Services department for a quote to remove the items. Simply call 01908 252570 or visit the website at: milton-keynes.gov.uk.

There may be a discount if you receive benefits.



Decking

Rats love decking. If you have decking in your garden you should be extra careful that it does not attract rats. Decking provides a safe sheltered area for the rats to nest under or to use as a cover for their burrows. Consider installing mesh around the edges of the decking, or filling voids with concrete. Make sure if you use the area for dining that any left over food is thoroughly cleaned away.

Taking care of your decking area will pay dividends in reducing the risk of rats in your garden.



Things you can do...

We hope the information provided will help you to make your property a safer, vermin free space.

Don't forget that you can order a free 5 litre grey kitchen caddy to collect food waste, which can then be emptied into your standard green bin, or the smaller bin intended for properties without a garden.

If you don't have any of these at present, simply order at

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/waste-recycling/report-or-request-it>

or contact Milton Keynes Council on 01908 252570.

If you have seen rats in or around your garden and would like them professionally baited, Milton Keynes Council's approved contractor, SDK will do so for a small charge (reduced for those on benefits). Contact SDK on 03444 828325.

Being aware, talking to your neighbours, taking preventative action and following these easy steps will help eradicate the threat of vermin from Milton Keynes.

Remember, it is your responsibility as owner or occupier to keep your land free from rats and mice.

If you find an infestation or burrows on your land or close by it is your responsibility to undertake pest control. In the case of rented property this responsibility is shared with the landlord.



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