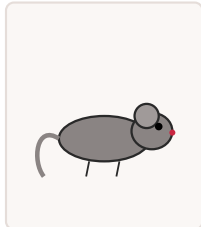




PEST ID GUIDE 2 OF 5

Rodent Identification Guide

Rodents are a zero-tolerance pest in food facilities. They gnaw, contaminate and carry disease, and evidence of them can halt an audit immediately. Learn to read the signs of the three rodents most common in South African premises.



House mouse

Mus musculus

HOW TO SPOT IT

Small (7-10 cm body), large ears, pointed nose, thin tail as long as the body. Droppings 3-6 mm, rod-shaped. Greasy smear marks along skirting.

WHY IT IS A PROBLEM

Contaminates far more food than it eats through nibbling, urine and droppings. Carries Salmonella and gnaws wiring. Breeds rapidly.



Brown / Norway rat

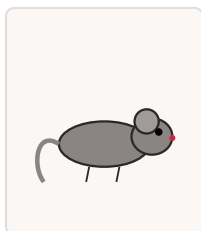
Rattus norvegicus

HOW TO SPOT IT

Large, heavy body (up to 25 cm), blunt nose, small ears, tail shorter than body. Burrows near drains and foundations. Droppings 15-20 mm.

WHY IT IS A PROBLEM

Undermines structures, chews cabling (a fire risk) and contaminates bulk storage. Vectors Leptospirosis and Salmonella.



Roof / black rat

Rattus rattus

HOW TO SPOT IT

Slender, agile climber, large ears, pointed nose, tail longer than body. Nests high - roof voids, false ceilings, upper racking.

WHY IT IS A PROBLEM

Contaminates high storage often missed in inspections. Gnaws ceiling wiring and spreads disease over stored product.

Seeing these on your site?

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