



House mice

This fact sheet can be made available in other languages or formats on request by contacting 0161 770 6666. For further information please see our detailed fact sheet Information for all.

The council offers a treatment service to get rid of house mice, but the following provides some advice.

What are house mice?

They are rodents, brown/grey in colour with slightly lighter underparts. They have comparatively large ears, pointed snouts and long tails. An average adult mouse weighs 12-22g, with an overall length of around 165mm.

They must gnaw continually in order to wear down their rapidly growing incisor teeth. They are good climbers, and they can swim if necessary, although they tend to avoid water. They have poor eyesight, and are colour blind but they have an excellent sense of taste and acute hearing.

They are sexually mature at 6 weeks old and can produce up to 8 litters per year, with an average litter size of 4–8 young. They have a life span of between 9–12 months.

Where can they be found?

House mice are usually nocturnal, commensal rodents (which means they live in close proximity to man). They **do not** live in sewers.

What do they eat?

Mice generally prefer to eat cereals, but will sample many different foods. They do not need access to free water, as they can get any moisture they need from their food.

Are house mice harmful to humans?

They may carry a number of infectious diseases that can pose a risk to humans and animals. They can also contaminate food.

How to get rid of house mice

Preventing mice from gaining access to buildings will reduce the chances of them moving in and becoming established. Proofing buildings can be achieved by blocking openings through which mice can enter the building. Check airbricks are in place and intact (do not block them) and inspect for access points around gas, electricity and water pipes. Check that doors fit tightly.

Such action helps to prevent mice entering from outside and will limit their movement between properties.

At first sign of an infestation, contact the council on the number listed below. We will give advice or alternatively carry out a treatment for you.

Contacting us

If you would like more information about house mice and pests in general you can contact us by:

Writing to

Pest Control Section, Chadderton Town Hall, Middleton Road, Chadderton, Oldham, OL9 6PP

Phoning

0161 770 4509

Faxing

0161 770 4500

Emailing

pestcontrol@oldham.gov.uk

For more information about pests and pest control please see our other detailed fact sheets listed below:

- [Pest control](#)
- [Australian spider beetles](#)
- [Bed bugs](#)
- [Biscuit beetles](#)
- [Brown rats](#)

- **Carpet beetles**
- **Clover mites**
- **Cluster Flies**
- **Devil's coach-horses**
- **Feral pigeons**
- **Fleas in the home**
- **How to deter foxes**
- **Garden ants**
- **German cockroaches**
- **Golden spider beetles**
- **Grey squirrels**
- **Larder beetles**
- **Millipedes**
- **Oriental cockroaches**
- **Psocids**
- **Silverfish**
- **Slugs indoors**
- **Wasps**
- **Woodlice**

We value your comments and suggestions

We want to provide good quality service for people in Oldham and as we are a public service you have a say in what we do. We want you to be completely satisfied with our services but to ensure this we need to know what you think. What do we do best? Where could we improve things? Do you have any ideas or suggestions? Only by listening to you can we give you the service you deserve.

If you wish to make a comment about our services you can e-mail us on [**customer.feedback@oldham.gov.uk**](mailto:customer.feedback@oldham.gov.uk)

or you can phone us on 0161 770 4191

or you can write to us:

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Strategy and Resources Directorate
PO Box 160
Civic Centre
Oldham, OL1 1UG

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