

# RODENTS

## THE NORWAY RAT, ROOF OR BLACK RAT AND HOUSE MOUSE

### INFESTATION

Rodents reach sexual maturity quickly. From then on they are prolific breeders. One pair can be responsible for up to 1000 offspring in only 12 months. This helps to explain why the fight to control an infestation must be concentrated and continuous.

### INSPECTION

A qualified Flick inspector will call at a time to suit you, to carry out a thorough inspection. Years of experience in the field and specialised training have equipped him to know just what to look for. He will then identify the rodent species and size of the infestation, their food and water sources and method of access. All these are essentials that must be known to decide on the best control measures.

He will then provide you with a comprehensive obligation free quotation for the treatment. This of course carries the Flick Warranty - if re-infestation occurs during the warranty period, additional treatment will be provided free of charge.

### SANITATION

Sanitation and hygiene are absolute musts if the control program is to be effective. The elimination of rat harbourage locations, food and water sources and the general cleanliness of the area are all essentials. Garbage heaps, old machinery, timber piles, weed growth and general litter should be removed. Garbage must be kept in rat-proof cans with tight-fitting lids and a well-organised and supervised cleaning and maintenance plan must be adhered to.

Here again, the Flick inspector can help. He will provide expert advice on the action required to minimise the risk of re-infestation

### TREATMENT

The suspicious and cunning nature of rodents can result in the treatment being a very specialised process. Most treatment methods involve the laying of special baits depending upon the type, size and food source of the infestation. Other methods such as tracking powders and traps may also be used.

Flick Pest Control has developed a wide variety of bait types, which have all been thoroughly tested in the field and proven successful. In situations where the rodent is not taking the bait or appears to have a resistance to it, the Biologists and Entomologists from the Company's Technical Services Department will develop a "tailor-made" treatment method to suit the particular situation.

The safety of humans and pets and the non-contamination of food and other materials is paramount.

The control method is always determined with these factors in mind.

### LIFE CYCLE

	NORWAY RAT	ROOF RAT	HOUSE MOUSE
Time until sexual maturity	2 - 3 Months	2 - 3 Months	1 - 1½ Months
Adult life span	12 Months	12 Months	12 Months
Time until young born	Averages 23 days	Averages 22 days	Averages 19 days
Number of young	8 - 12 / Litter	6 - 8 / Litter	5 - 6 / Litter
Number of litters	4 - 7 / Year	4 - 6 / Year	6 - 10 / Year



FLICK ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (PTY) LTD

TEL: 011 444 1033 / 1057



"One flick and they're gone"

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## DISEASES ASSOCIATED WITH RODENTS

DISEASE	CASUAL ORGANISM
Bubonic Plague	Yerinia pestis
Murine Typhus	Rickettsia typhi
Trichinosis	Trichinella spiralis
Salmonella	Salmonella typhimurium Salmonella enteritidis
Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis	
Rickettsialpox	
Rat-Bite Fever	Spirillum minus
Ringworm	Trichophyton, Microsporum

### A THREAT TO HEALTH

Perhaps the most serious problem with rodents is their danger to health. Their reputation as carriers of the Bubonic Plague ("Black Death") has already been mentioned in the above table. Thankfully South Africa is free from the disease but it continues to take many lives each year in various parts of the world.

Rats are indiscriminate in their habits. They will frequent sewers and rubbish heaps and then make themselves quite at home in roofs or kitchen cupboards.

Many disease organisms are carried by rodents, the most notable in South Africa being those that cause food poisoning, the Salmonella group. This bacteria is carried in their urine and droppings and is transmitted to humans by the rodent's constant uncontrolled urination.

### DO YOU KNOW?

Rats originated in Asia.

Rats store 4 times as much food as they can eat.

In 1896, 12 million people died in India from the Bubonic Plague.

A pair of Rats, if uncontrolled can be responsible for 1,560 offspring in one year.

The Norway Rat can burrow for 2 to 3 metre horizontally.

Mice can jump more than 77cm vertically and 1.2 metre horizontally.

Norway and Roof Rats can remain under water for up to 30 seconds.

Rats can cause power failures, mechanical breakdowns, or even fires by gnawing through electrical wires. They are capable of gnawing through lead, copper, blocks, aluminium, wood and uncured concrete.



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