

Using Rat & Mouse Traps Safely & Efficiently

ROSHIELD
CONTROL

This leaflet is for traps designed specifically for the control of Brown Rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) and House Mice (*Mus domesticus*)

To be effective traps must be accessible to rodents but not humans or other non-target species. Where traps are used in area where children or pets may have access to the trap extra precautions are essential and steps must be taken to prevent non-target species accessing the trap. The easiest way to achieve this is to set the trap inside a Roshield bait box. Alternatively, traps can be placed in secure voids or protected using natural materials such as wooden planks or stones.

It is important to check the traps regularly to assess the safety and effectiveness, to remove any rodents and to reset the trap if required.

Any food and water that rats and mice may have access to should be removed. By denying access to their previous food and water supply rodents are more likely to search out new foods and be drawn to the trap. Removing bird feeders or the placement of hoppers in chicken coops are common examples of steps that can be taken when treating rats and mice in outdoor spaces.

Rats and mice are extremely cautious creatures and are wary of new items that appear in their environment and so it may take several days before they will enter the traps. This is common and not a sign of a defective product.

In some instances, especially where heavy infestations are present, trap shyness may develop. In these instances, rats or mice have built up a negative association with the trap and actively avoid the trap. If trap shyness occurs an alternative technique may be required, this may include switching trap type or changing to a rodenticide bait.

Trapping programs should be implemented for at least four weeks before considering alternative options.

When the trap is no longer active and no signs of rat or mouse activity are present this is a good indication that the infestation has been eradicated, at this point the trap should be removed or deactivated.

Which bait to use?

The type of bait that rats and mice prefer will vary between individuals and sites. Matching the bait to the food items that the rats or mice are already feeding on may provide initial success but in many cases trial and error will be necessary until the perfect bait is identified. A popular bait to try is chocolate spread or a crunchy peanut butter, these baits stick to the trap mechanism preventing bait removal. Despite popular misconception, cheese is not recommended as a bait.

Roshield have available professional attractant sprays and baits which have been specifically formulated to attract rats and house mice.

Where to set the traps

When setting traps you will need to look for a regular run as rodents follow wall/floor junctions, particularly under kitchen cupboards, under baths, etc. They will run along beams, ceiling joists in lofts and alongside floor joists beneath the floor. Runs can be identified through the presence of greasy marks, droppings or flattened vegetation.

It is recommended that traps are placed in voids away from human habitation, such as under kitchen cupboards or in the attic space rather than in open areas. This will significantly improve the rate of capture.



How to set the trap

Before activating the trap

		
Place bait in the bait holder, ensuring the bait cannot be easily removed.	✓ Place the trap at a right angle to the wall so that rodents running along the wall from either direction can be securely caught.	✗ Do not place the trap horizontally to the wall/floor junction as rats or mice may evade the trap.

Activating the trap

		
Roshield traps are easy to set and can be operated with one hand.	Place a thumb on the top metal bar and push down, keeping fingers clear of the active area (circled).	Push the bar all the way to the base until the bar clicks into place. The trap is now set.

Using the trap in the Roshield Bait Box or Mouse Trap Box

		
Open the Roshield box using the key supplied and place the trap in situ. The base of the trap should fit under the two guides in the runway of the bait box (circled).	Bait and set the trap following the procedure above. Remove any bait rods from the boxes as they can prevent the trap from operating correctly.	OPTIONAL: If using the cable tie - wrap around the kill bar and tighten, before feeding the tail of the cable tie through the access hole to set the trap.



WARNING – DO NOT PLACE FINGERS IN SET TRAPS

Roshield recommends that traps are checked twice daily.



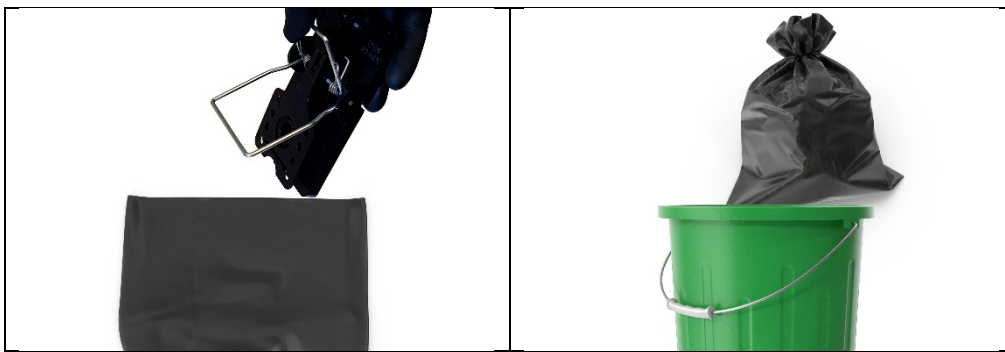
Safety when trapping

Rats and mice carry many pathogens and therefore it is important to ensure that anyone handling traps or working in areas where rats and mice have been active manage this risk. This can be achieved by following the guidelines below:

- Avoid touching rats and mice or objects they may have contaminated.
- Always wear disposable gloves when handling bodies, traps or when cleaning soiled areas.
- Avoid stirring up and breathing dust in areas where rats and mice have been active.
- Wear a mask to avoid breathing dust particles contaminated by rats or mice.
- Use a disinfectant to dampen soiled nesting material and droppings before sweeping to reduce the amount of dust.
- Always wash your hands after working with rats or mice even if you have been wearing gloves.

Removal of dead rodents

Domestic: The trap design removes the need to handle captured bodies. Simply release the trap as shown below ensuring the rodent drops into a double bag, which can then be disposed of in the general waste.

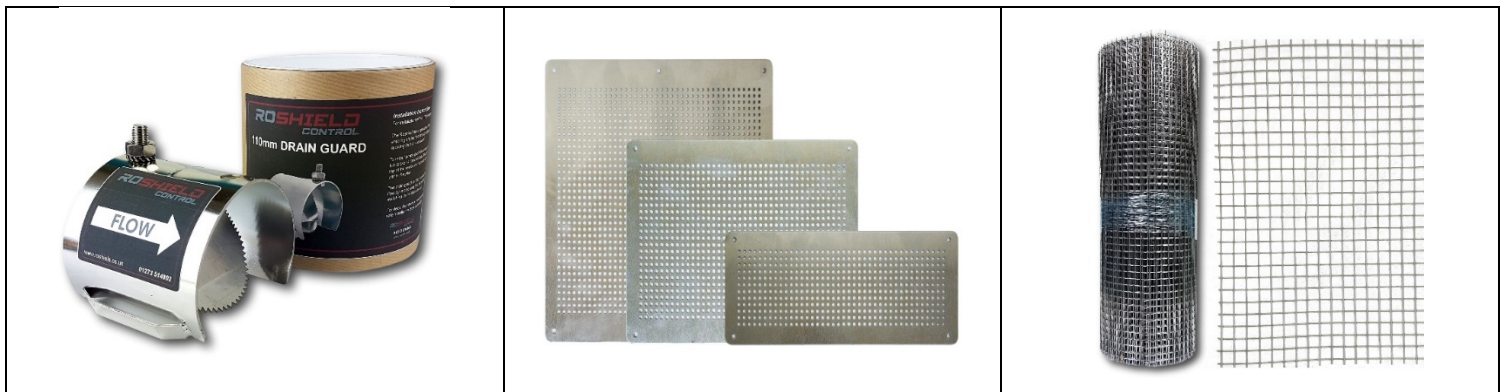


Commercial: Rats and mice bodies are treated as non-hazardous waste under code EWC 20 01 99.

What to do at the end of the trapping

Once control of the population has been achieved steps should be taken to prevent reoccurrence. Proofing of entry points is a common tool used to help prevent reoccurrence, some common proofing examples are given below:

- Mice can gain access through a hole of approximately 5mm in diameter.
- Install wire wool or mesh to entrance gaps and pipe work in both internal and external locations.
- Bristle strips should be installed to door bases.
- Mesh guards should be fitted to ventilation bricks.
- Caps should be placed on the top of drainpipes to prevent rats accessing the pipes.
- Broken drains must be repaired where rats have used these to access building cavities.
- Cutting back ivy and other climbing plants to below soffit level will remove a common access path.



Cleaning of infected areas

Internal areas where rodents have been active may become contaminated and pose a risk of transmission of bacteria and viruses associated with rodents. By using an appropriate cleaning biocide spray such as the Rosshield Sanitiser & Cleaner Spray these can be removed and the risk reduced.

An alternative is our new Rosshield Anti-bacterial room and void aerosol which removes 99.9% off bacteria and viruses associated with rodents and their waste.

Always wear personal protective equipment including an appropriate mask when cleaning in confined spaces or untreated environments.



Hints and tips

Rats and mice can be tricky to control and problems associated with trapping or rodenticide baiting are common and not a sign of a defective product.

- Neophobia (fear of new things) can be a significant challenge with rats and mice and immediate capture overnight is extremely unlikely. Rosshield recommend that traps are laid down undisturbed for at least 1 week before considering moving a trap to a different location.
- If the rodents are showing no interest in the traps this is often due to a competing, and safer food source which need to be removed. If removal is not a possibility, Rosshield recommend that you take steps to encourage rodents to the trapping area by placing food in and around an unset trap, once the rodents are close to the trap then set the trap and limit the food to around the trap itself.
- Bait being taken and the trap mechanism not going off is frustrating but not usually a sign of a defect with the trap and is usually due to the rat or mouse being extremely cautious. Continuing to bait the trap regularly usually resolves this problem as the rodent will slowly gain trust. Placing bait under the trigger paddle will encourage the rodent to take the bait.
- Defective traps are rare. Traps can easily be tested by setting the trap and using a soft object to press down on the trigger paddle to set off the trap (keeping fingers well away from the moving parts). If you still believe there is an issue, please contact us so we can investigate further. Traps should never be dry fired as this may damage the mechanism.
- If you are away for a weekend or on holiday, do not set the trap but leave it in position unset, the rodents will get accustomed to going, in and out. This may increase your trapping success when you return and also limit any risk of future trap shyness or not removing any captures.
- Occasionally bait can be damaged by slugs and snails, this is particularly a problem when baiting externally or within damp environments. Rosshield would recommend lightly sprinkling salt around the box to stop further activity or repositioning the trapping box.
- Trap shyness can complicate trapping programs, especially if the rodents have experience with previous trapping campaigns. Persistence is the key; however, rodenticide options may have to be considered.

For further information on our products or if you require additional help:

www.rosshield.co.uk