



**Horsham
District
Council**

F.A.O. THE OWNER/ OCCUPIER

**RAT INFESTATION
PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949**

This Department is carrying out a rat treatment in the immediate area close to your property and we are aware that some residents are leaving food out for the birds and foxes, etc

Rats are foraging animals and therefore attracted by any food left outside. Whilst bird feeding etc are quite common practices we would be grateful if all residents can stop feeding the birds and foxes for the next 6 weeks so that we can tackle the problem of rat infestation. Rats will avoid taking pesticides if other food sources are available. Bird food and left-over scraps can also contain Vitamin K1 which acts as an antidote to the pesticides being used. If like many people you enjoy feeding garden birds and foxes we would ask that you take additional care in the future as any food source is likely to attract any rodents in the area. Please keep bird feeding to a minimum, the RSPB recommend not putting out more food than can be eaten and to avoid leaving quantities of food on or near the ground, especially after dark.

Make sure that no food from BBQ's or parties, etc is left outside as this can also create a problem.

Please inspect your property for any signs of rodent activity. Such activity could include burrows, droppings and gnawing. Particular attention should be given to heavily overgrown areas or areas obscured by stored items. These areas should be cleared before inspection and please do not forget to inspect your compost bin (if you have one) for any signs of activity.

If in any doubt about what signs of activity to look for, please call our pest control team for free advice. If you wish a pest control officer to call to complete a survey or treatment we will be pleased to assist you, however there is a charge for these services.

By Law, it is the responsibility of the owner or occupier of a property to ensure they do not have a rat infestation. The Council has a duty to enforce this responsibility where it becomes necessary to do so.

Your co-operation is essential if the rat problem is to be fully controlled on behalf of your neighbourhood.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Horsham District Council's Pest Control Team on **01403 215411**

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