Rodent signs: investigate safely

Droppings are a clue; shape and size alone do not confirm the species.

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1 Look for several signs

Check gnawing, tracks, noises, nests and entry points alongside droppings.

2 Record without disturbing

Note locations and photograph from a safe position. Keep food, children and pets away from contamination.

3 Do not sweep dry waste

Avoid vacuuming or sweeping untreated droppings, which can disperse contaminated dust.

4 Plan safe cleanup

Wear suitable gloves and follow disinfectant instructions and established cleanup guidance. Do not mix cleaning chemicals.

5 Prevent recurrence

Remove food and water sources and arrange suitable rodent-proofing without blocking required building ventilation.

6 Escalate when needed

Use a competent pest contractor for substantial infestation, inaccessible contamination or uncertainty about safe control.

Confirm the problem, control the infestation and clean using a safe method.

REFERENCE GUIDANCE

CDC: safe cleanup after rodents
HSE: rat-related infection risks

Use current product instructions and the approved project design. For regulations, confirm the UK nation, applicable edition and transitional arrangements.