



Food safety advice

Pest Control Contracts

Why do I need a pest control contract?



For food businesses, it is always good practice to employ the services of a pest control contractor. Pests such as mice and rats are constantly around us in the environment and look for opportunities to enter buildings where food is handled or stored.

The surroundings to your premises could also be attractive to pests if refuse is not properly stored or if there is waste ground or a water course nearby.

Where can I find a pest control contractor?

The City Council has a pest control service. More information about their services can be found at www.coventry.gov.uk/pestcontrol call 024 7683 2658 or email pest.control@coventry.gov.uk for further information. There are also many private pest control companies who will advertise in publications such as 'Yellow pages' or 'Thompson local'. You could also look on the internet.

How do I know if my pest control contractor is providing me with a good service?

There are two things you can do:

1. You could ask other businesses if they have a pest control contractor they could recommend to you; and
2. You can check if they are members of a nationally organised pest control association. Such as:
 - British Pest Control Association www.bpca.org.uk/ or
 - National Pest Technicians Association www.npta.org.uk/

You can also enquire whether the contractor has professionally trained staff and whether they have appropriate insurance cover - public liability, product liability and employer's liability. They should have certificates to demonstrate this cover.



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What can I expect from a pest control contractor?

The contract should include immediate treatment of any pests found and should also cover regular visits to check for signs of pest infestation. You should always receive a written inspection sheet at the end of the visit. The inspection sheet should tell you exactly what has been done and may give you advice on things that you need to do. The inspection sheet should specify:

- Type of infestation – what pests have been found.
- Where the pests have been found (e.g. storeroom, kitchen).
- Type of control measures taken, e.g. bait laid, traps set etc. (If chemical baits have been left you should also be given information about any necessary safety precautions).
- Locations of the bait and/or traps.
- Areas inspected during the visit.
- Any other actions taken by the pest control officer.
- Recommendation/Advice given by pest officer (covering cleaning, housekeeping, storage, pest proofing required etc.)
- Date and frequency of pest officers' visits.
- Any extra treatments and emergency visits.

If the pest control contractor cannot provide you with this level of service, find one who can!

Following the visit you should take immediate action to follow any housekeeping and/or proofing recommendations to ensure that pests are eradicated or prevented from entering the premises.

Don't just leave everything to the contractor!

You still need to still carry out your own personal in-house checks in addition to the service provided by the pest control contractor, to ensure that any initial signs of infestation are spotted quickly and dealt with promptly.

Some examples of signs to be aware of include, rodent droppings, nibbled food, flying insects etc. Failure to suitably address an infestation problem could result in closure of your business and possible further legal action.



Mouse droppings (left) and rat droppings (right)