

FRIDAY, 12 MAY 2023

RODENT DAMAGE TO YOUR HOME CAN BE MORE COSTLY THAN YOU THINK

As the weather starts to cool down, rats, mice, and other vermin will begin to look for warmer indoor shelters or where there is a food supply. Our homes, sheds, and outbuildings can be the perfect place for rodents to set up home over winter.

Tell-tale signs of a rodent problem include scratching inside your walls and small black droppings. Rats and mice can spread diseases, including salmonella, and cause costly damage to your property that may not be covered by insurance.

RACV Head of Home and Business Insurance, Kirsty Hayes, says rodent damage could end up costing you dearly if not addressed quickly.

"Generally speaking, rodent damage is excluded from property insurance as pest control is considered to be general maintenance," says Ms Hayes.

"Prevention is the best solution when it comes to rodents in your home. Homeowners should do a quick rodent check at least once a year to make sure they don't have any uninvited guests.

"Once a year, check around your home and gardens for any signs of droppings, chewed materials, strange odours, tracks, nests, or scratching.

"Seal up cracks and holes in your foundations, walls, and roof with filler or other material. Mice can squeeze into small gaps, so be vigilant about filling even the tiniest holes.

"Remove or cover all compost scraps, reduce water sources such as leaky pipes or taps, and clean up excess foliage that rodents can use for shelter. Store any other food sources, including pet food, in airtight containers.

"Cut back any trees, shrubs, or other vegetation as rodents can use these to climb into your home.

"If you already have a rodent problem, traps and baits can help you control it. Place traps in areas where you have seen signs of rodent activity. If the problem persists, you may need to contact a pest control professional for help.

"Remember, the crucial step in preventing a rodent infestation is to act as soon as you suspect you have a problem. The longer you wait, the harder it will be to control."

For more information about how to keep pests out of your home, visit the [RACV website](#).

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Further information

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