

# Fact or Fiction?

## on common pests

**FACT** or **FICTION** ? Rats and mice are only active at night.



**Fact is** rodents become more active when they perceive less danger which often makes night time the best choice for travel. However, their eyes and ears are always alert to the slightest sound or movement so they also move around during daylight hours to secure food and shelter, particularly once they have memorised safe routes.

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**FACT** or **FICTION** ? Without a host, fleas will quickly die off.

**Fact is** flea cocoons remain dormant in furniture or carpets for as long as two years. When they are once again disturbed the cocoons hatch and they start to bite. Unfortunately for their bite victims, fleas are one of nature's survivors.



**FACT** or **FICTION** ? Bedbugs locate their hosts by smelling their blood.



**Fact is** bedbugs detect carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) which humans and mammals exhale. While we are asleep or resting CO<sub>2</sub> 'clouds' form, the bugs detect these as well body heat to find their meal.

**FACT** or **FICTION** ? Fleas can jump 150 times their own length.

**Fact is** fleas can jump closer to 200 times their own length according to some reports. This is the equivalent of a human being jumping the Gherkin building. Fleas have a special hard shell to survive the impact of landing.



**FACT** or **FICTION** ? Bait your traps with cheese to catch a mouse.



**Fact is** mice prefer fatty and sugary foods such as honey, cake or fried foods.

**FACT** or **FICTION** ? A fertilised queen wasp can create a 5,000 strong colony.

**Fact is** once the queen has built the beginnings of a new nest she lays between 10 and 20 eggs. She feeds the resulting larvae until they emerge as workers, who then take over the building and enlarging of the nest and continue to provide food for the subsequent larvae. The nests usually grow to the size of a football.



**FACT** or **FICTION** ? You can never completely eradicate cockroaches.



**Fact is** you can rid any building of cockroaches and maintain it cockroach-free by using a detailed pest management programme.



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on pest control services

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**FACT** or **FICTION** ? Exterminating pests may lead to a requirement for other property services such as waste management or mould eradication. That means having to hire multiple sub-contractors.

**Fact is** there are multi-skilled, professionally-trained teams who are able to perform a range of tasks from removing hazardous waste to eradicating pests all in one visit, saving you time and money.

**FACT** or **FICTION** ? Under COSHH, FEPA and Control of Pesticides Regulations, customers are legally entitled to access relevant documentation following pest control services.

**Fact is** customers are legally entitled plus, a good pest control company can now let you have access to a complete audit trail of works carried out with photos, inspection reports and treatments online.

**FACT** or **FICTION** ? All pesticides can be safely used by anyone.

**Fact is** some pesticides are only approved for use by qualified technicians. Pest controllers should hold accreditations from a recognised scheme or trade body such as British Pest Control Association.

**FACT** or **FICTION** ? Pesticide can indiscriminately kill.

**Fact is** a highly-trained pest controller will use the correct dose of the right pesticide to minimise impact to the environment, as well as humans and animals.

**FACT** or **FICTION** ? Removing pests will solve the infestation problem.

**Fact is** re-infestation is highly likely without integrated pest management services, regular inspections and procedures in place to keep areas clean and maintained.

**FACT** or **FICTION** ? Diseased dead animals can be thrown straight into the bin.

**Fact is** you should use a licensed waste carrier, who is authorised to dispose of hazardous waste in an appropriate manner.

**FACT** or **FICTION** ? Pest controllers often leave locations they have treated unsafe for pets, wildlife and humans.

**Fact is** outgoing pest controllers frequently fail to remove certain pesticides when their job finishes at a site. This, teamed with a lack of documentation, makes it difficult to tell which areas are free from chemicals.

**FACT** or **FICTION** ? There is no way of monitoring the work that has been carried out by pest controllers.

**Fact is** it is now possible to view jobs status through online systems, where a complete audit trail with photographic evidence is uploaded by PDA enabled technicians.



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Rubbish clearance



Pigeon guano



Mould eradication



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