

Pests and vermin

This fact sheet explains how to prevent pests and vermin from becoming a problem in your house.

What are pests and vermin?



ants



cockroaches



mice



millipedes



rats



silverfish



spiders

Why are they a problem?



They can damage your rental home.



They may be a risk to health.



If the problem gets out of control, and you have not tried to fix it, you may be asked to move out of your home.

What are the rules?



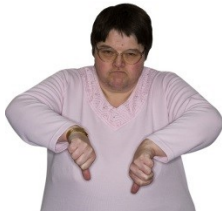
Local council rules say that all homes and public spaces must be healthy and safe.



This means that homes must be free of pests and vermin.



If your local council says that your home has a problem with pests and vermin, they can ask you to move out.



They may also say that the home is unhealthy for your neighbours.



This can cause serious problems for you.



It means you are breaking your lease or tenancy agreement with Homes Tasmania.



If this happens, Homes Tasmania may ask you to leave.



Tenants are responsible for keeping their Homes Tasmania home free of pests and vermin.



Your lease agreement says that you must keep your home free of pests and vermin.

How to prevent pests and vermin?



Keep your home clean, tidy and well-aired.



Always throw food scraps out straight away. Don't leave any wrappers or containers lying around.



Don't leave any food on tables, on benches, in bedrooms or on floors, especially overnight.



Clean up spills immediately, especially sugary drinks or honey.



Use a bin liner in your rubbish bin.

You may like to use plastic bags for this if they fit your bin. This saves money and is a good way of recycling the bags.



Empty your bin regularly, especially if it is overflowing or is starting to smell.



Keep your wheelie bin in a well-aired place. Make sure you are using bin liners or plastic bags for your rubbish – don't just throw rubbish straight into the wheelie bin.



Put your wheelie bin out for collection every week or fortnight.



Open windows and use extractor fans when cooking.



Keep the food in your pantry in sealed containers.



Keep your yard tidy.



Check underneath your home.



Make sure you don't have piles of clothes, towels or sheets lying around. They make a good home for mice and rats.



Make sure any pets you have are kept clean, and that you clean up after them, even if they do their toileting outside.



Clean any pet food bowls regularly. Unwanted pet food can attract pests and vermin.



Remember that you need to talk to Homes Tasmania if you want to keep a pet.

What if pests and vermin damage my property?



In some cases, you may need to call an exterminator.



You need to pay for the exterminator. Homes Tasmania won't pay for this.

For smaller problems, there are plenty of products available in the supermarket to manage pests and vermin. These include:



mouse traps



sprays and other products to control ants and insects



steel wool for plugging up holes – mice and rats can't chew through metal.



If you have large gaps in your home, you should contact Homes Tasmania. This may be a problem with the foundations of the home and you need to report this issue.

Paul's story



Paul noticed a small hole in the wall, near the floor, in the laundry at his house.



He didn't really know what to do about it, so he just ignored it.



Unfortunately, it was a mouse hole. Before Paul knew it, mice were breeding at his place.



They enjoyed feasting on Paul's overflowing rubbish bin.



One day, they chewed through the cable that connected Paul's phone and internet.



He was annoyed when the phone company charged him more than \$300 to fix the problem.



He decided to do something about the mice.

He bought some traps at the supermarket.

He stuffed the hole with steel wool so they couldn't get into the house anymore.



He emptied his rubbish bin more frequently. And he made sure he wasn't leaving any food lying around to attract them.

More information

Call Homes Tasmania	1300 665 663
Email Homes Tasmania	tenancyservices@homes.tas.gov.au
Help to get information	TTY users phone 133 677, then ask for 1300 135 513. Speak and Listen users phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 1300 135 513. Internet relay users connect to the NRS then ask for 1300 135 513.
Information for Homes Tasmania tenants	You can find more information and fact sheets by visiting www.homestasmania.com.au/Your-tenancy