

Find out the best methods to identify and effectively control some of the most common pests that may invade your home.



At some time or another, we have all had unwanted guests in our homes – and not the human kind! Pests like flies, ants, cockroaches and rats can be annoying, unhygienic and may even cause damage to your health and home, and while it is impossible to eradicate these pests, there are ways to control them.

Lynette Cokayne, CEO of the South African Pest Control Association (SAPCA), Matthys de Beer, Gauteng regional chairman of SAPCA and Mark Edwardes, Head of Development & Regulatory Affairs of Bayer Environmental Science tell you more about these pests and how to control them.

Rats

Rodents consume, contaminate and damage food and food packaging, structures and property, and also transmit parasites and diseases to other animals and humans. Rats breed within a six-week cycle and have up to five litters a year. They are mainly active at night and will travel up to 100m away from their nests in search of food.

Tips for controlling them:

- Rats can fit through a space or hole the size of a large coin. Their bodies are made up of soft cartilage, which allows them to squeeze through spaces and gaps that appear to be much too small for them. Small cracks or holes in floors, pavement grates or vents are popular ways for rats to get to a warm area. Fill all gaps, vents and holes in floors or doors.
- Some rats even dig under building foundations to get access to food and water. Rats can thrive on just 30 grams of food and water daily, so if they find food, they will stay. But they don't always sneak into the home unnoticeably; sometimes they climb through open windows or doors. Get rid of easily accessible food in your house.
- Most rats will slide through openings for pipes and wires in the foundation or wall because they chew through metals such as copper and aluminum. Because rodents have teeth that continuously grow, they'll gnaw at things to whittle down their incisors. So, if you notice bite marks on your furniture, walls or doors, it could very well be from a rat. Call a pest control company when in doubt.
- As their fur is generally very dirty, rats leave grease marks along the walls. When you detect traces of a rat, it is advisable to immediately take action. Rats have an excellent memory; when they learn a path, they will never forget it, and soon others will follow. Popular places to look for traces of rats are through floor drains, gaps less than a centimetre under doors and fan openings.

Products to control rodents

Single Feed Rodenticide: Finale® Grain Bait; Finale® Pellets; Finale® Wax Blocks.

Multiple Feed Rodenticide: Racumin® Paste; Racumin® Wax Blocks; Racumin® Tracking Powder.