

## 4. DEMOLITION OF OLD BUILDINGS

Before old buildings are demolished, especially in an urban centre, a survey should be made to assess infestation levels, if any, and disinfestation measures applied.



## 5. HYGIENE

It is essential that a good standard of hygiene be maintained on site during the course of construction if rodents are not to be attracted to it.

- (a) Waste food, empty food tins, and other waste which might attract rodents should be stored in bins with tight fitting lids.
- (b) Accumulations of old timber, bricks and debris, provide harbourage for rodents and should be cleared away as quickly as is possible.
- (c) Stocks of building material should be neatly stored.



HSE  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH

**RODENT  
CONTROL FOR  
CONSTRUCTION  
INDUSTRY**

# GUIDE TO ARCHITECTS, BUILDERS, SITE DEVELOPERS

It is desirable that precautions should be taken to prevent infestations of new buildings, drains and sewers, and nearby properties as a result of building work. The occupier of 'land' is legally obliged to take steps to ensure that any infestation of rats or mice is eradicated and to take all reasonably practicable steps necessary to prevent infestation. The following measures are recommended to prevent infestation



## 1. BUILDING SITE

It is not unusual for the site of a new building to be infested with rats before construction commences. The rats may be living in hedges, on the banks of a nearby river, in old drains etc. In the first instance it should be ascertained if the land is infested, and if so, the land should be disinfested before building operations commence.

The following should be carried out:

- (a) All refuse should be removed from site.
- (b) Old drains and other disused pipes should either be filled with concrete, or alternatively dug out and the junctions with working drains sealed.
- (c) Old foundations, cesspits, cavities, etc., should be backfilled with suitable hardcore, well consolidated and covered with a layer of concrete.

## 2. SEWERS AND DRAINS

- (a) During the laying of new drains the sewers, open pipe ends and manholes should be protected against entry by rodents when work is not in progress – particularly at nighttime.
- (b) Surface water pipes discharging into a watercourse should be fitted with an anti-flood flap valve at the outlet.



## 3. CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING

It is known that rats can jump vertically up to three feet and that mice are capable of passing under a gap of three eighths of an inch. Consequently the outer walls of a building should be rodent proofed to a height of three feet and there should be no opening in excess of a quarter of an inch around bases of doors etc. Particular attention should be paid to :-

- (a) Openings made for waste and soil pipes, washing machines and central heating pipes.
- (b) Openings made for electric, telephone, and T.V. cables.
- (c) Openings made for ventilation plates and air bricks.
- (d) The gap between the bottoms of external doors and their thresholds.

